

BOUNTY HUNTER SPECIAL • COUNTDOWN TO ATTACK OF THE CLONES



STAR WARS INSIDER

**BAD
COMPANY**

**BEHIND
THE MASKS
OF
JANGO
FETT
ZAM
WESELL
BOBA
FETT**

**WHO'S WHO IN THE
NEW JEDI ORDER**



TOPDECK PRESENTS

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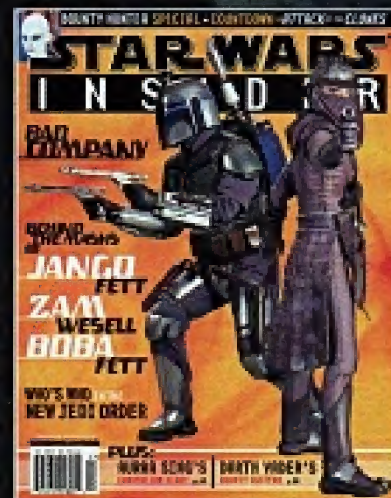
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ON THE COVER

If you thought Darth Maul was bad with that double lightsaber, brace yourself for the two-fisted action of these bounty hunters. Jango Fett (Temuera Morrison) and Zam Wesell (Leeanna Walsman) are ready for Jedi in Episode II. Jango Fett photo by Keith Hamshire and Zam Wesell photo by Giles Westley.



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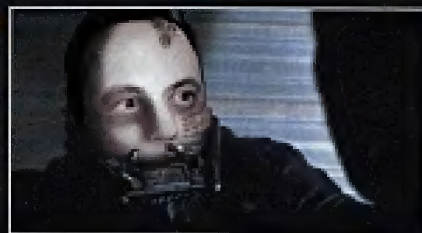
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After you complete this puzzle, you might think, "No reward is worth this."

94 DEAR 2-1B

This droid has had it.

Anti-Hero Worship

Our new editor-in-chief isn't a bad guy, but he sure could use some help with that Vader fixation. We're grateful that he put away the mask, but we wish he'd stop wearing the cloak to work. Check out his latest feeble attempt to rationalize his obsession below.



WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?

WHICH CHARACTERS APPEAR IN ALL THE STAR WARS MOVIES?



A lot of people answer, "the droids."

Rookie mistake.

The third man, as you veterans already knew, is the most important figure in the whole saga. He's not the protagonist in the classic trilogy, but his voice and image dominate those films so thoroughly that it takes a full ensemble of heroes to balance his dark presence.

When Vader strides onto the *Tantive IV* and throttles Captain Antilles, he sets a high standard for the villains that follow. Even the Emperor doesn't seem as dangerous as the fallen Jedi, because what makes Vader cool isn't just his sinister appearance or the threat he poses to freedom in the galaxy. He's compelling because, from the moment we first see him, we want to know more about him.

After *A New Hope*, everybody wanted a look behind that black mask—both literally and metaphorically. The glimpse we saw in *The Empire Strikes Back* was just enough to tantalize us without sating our curiosity, and the ultimate revelations in *Return of the Jedi* were the perfect answer to our questions.

Mystery is the true power shared by all of the best villains of the *Star Wars* saga. While none of the others tops the Dark Lord of the Sith, one comes close. From his initial release as an unexplained action figure to his brief appearances in *Episodes V* and *VI* (and, later, in the special edition of *Episode IV*), the galaxy's most notorious bounty hunter was a fan favorite. Just how did this guy get so popular without telekinetically strangling an Imperial officer? It's all about the mask.

The less we know about the villains of *Star Wars*, the more we want to know. It might feel infuriating to see so little of the most intriguing characters in each film, but that's exactly why we love them so much. The danger lies in learning too much too soon.

Eventually, of course, we need the payoff. If we had never seen the face beneath Vader's mask, how we would have screamed at the end of *Return of the Jedi*! More important than seeing his face was learning his reason for turning on the Emperor. Like his face, Vader's story remained a mystery until the end. Learning how and why Anakin Skywalker first set foot on the path to the dark side is one of the strongest attractions of *Episodes I-III*.

The prequels are also where we'll finally learn Boba Fett's story—not to mention that of his father, Jango. As if that weren't enough, there's yet another mysterious bounty hunter to add to the mix, the veiled Zam Wesell.

You'll learn more about the actors who play these intriguing characters in this issue, as well as a few secrets about the characters themselves. If you're very clever (and we know you are), you might even read between the lines for a glimpse into future events—but we won't make it easy for you. After all, we wouldn't want to spoil the mystery.

Dave Gross, Editor-in-Chief

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REBEL RUMBLINGS

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Welcome to this issue's edition of "Rebel Rumbblings," in which you can read letters from readers just like you, you lucky Devanorian, you.

Before we continue, let's set a few ground rules. There are some questions we see far too often, so let's save everyone some time and answer them all at once:

Q: Can you help me get a part in Episode III?

A: No.

Q: Can you tell George Lucas to change the title of *Attack of the Clones*?

A: No. (Besides, we like it.)

Q: Can you update my address?

A: Yes, but it's faster if you send an email with both your former and current address to: swinsider@pcspublish.com.

Q: Can I get a date with Natalie Portman?

A: No, and if you ask again, we're calling the police. We mean it.

With those caveats out of the way, let's delve into this issue's letters, including three good reasons why you should never believe anything you hear from "Ben" Obi-Wan Kenobi.

BEN'S YOUR UNCLE

I received issue #55 a couple of days ago and wanted to comment about a response to Alli Rico's question about the relationship between Obi-Wan and Owen Lars. Apparently the editor does not think that these two are related. Please open your copy of *Return of the Jedi* to page 66 to read where Ben/Obi-

Let the Wookiee Talk

I had this idea for a cool special feature for the *Star Wars* DVDs when they came out. There could be an option to subtitle Chewie's speech! Han can understand it, so why can't we? I think it would be cool to see exactly what he means with all those grunts, growls, and roars. It wouldn't be hard to do either, so why not?

Alan Olson
Corning, NY



At first, we thought this was a brilliant idea! Then we realized that most of what Chewie has to say to Han while they're repairing the *Falcon* would probably cross the PG-13 threshold (those Wookiees are notorious potty-mouths), so we guess we know why George left Chewie unintelligible.

Wan tells Luke, "I took you to live with my brother Owen, on Tatooine." The book is by James Kahn, screenplay by Lawrence Kasdan & George Lucas, and the story is by George Lucas. While you don't hear this in the movie, other scenes found in the books were left out of the final film version of each film. Of course, if you want a final answer, you must ask Mr. Lucas himself. I'd be glad to do that for you.

Jessica Earl
Phoenixville, PA

Now Jessica, you know better than to trust that old wizard. This is the same guy who told Luke that Darth Vader killed his father. Obi-Wan even uses an alias—

that's your first clue to take everything he says with a grain of salt. Never trust a man with "AKA" on his rap sheet.

With that said, there is a discrepancy between the *Return of the Jedi* novelization and the one, true, absolutely and only canonical *Star Wars* source: the movies. According to our trusted informants within Lucasfilm, Obi-wan and Owen are not brothers in the films, as should become clearer in about six infuriatingly long months.

Just remember that you heard it here first, and we're far more trustworthy than that shifty "Ben" Kenobi.

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WANNA RUMBLE?

Write to: REBEL RUMBLINGS, P.O. Box 707, Renton, WA 98057, or e-mail SWInsider@wizards.com. Letters may be edited for clarity and space considerations. All mail MUST include your full name and home city. *Star Wars Insider* is not responsible for any unsolicited material received. Due to time constraints and the volume of letters received, individual responses are not possible. Other than that, what is thy bidding, my master?

BACKSTAGE FROM LEFT: Beru Whitesun (Bonnie Piesse) shields her eyes from the glaring suns of Tatooine. Photo by Lisa Tomasetti. In a galaxy full of turbulent change, there's one thing Padmé Amidala (Natalie Portman) and Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen) can always rely on: the plucky astromech droid, R2-D2. Photo by Keith Henshere. Young Hayden Christensen (Anakin Skywalker) quickly grew accustomed to performing before walls of bluescreen. Photo by Sue Adler. Part of the Australian construction crew prepares a spender for its Episode II debut. Photo by Giles Westley.

EPISODE II PREQUEL

INTERVIEW BY DAN MADSEN
STORY BY ROBIN D. LAWS

The Way It Works

Star Wars producer Rick McCallum recalls the recent moment when he first learned that Episode II would be subtitled *Attack of the Clones*. "Basically," he says, "what happens is that George comes in one day and says: *I think I've got the title. This is it. And that's the way it works.* George doesn't hide these things, he comes out with them and then lets the word spread."

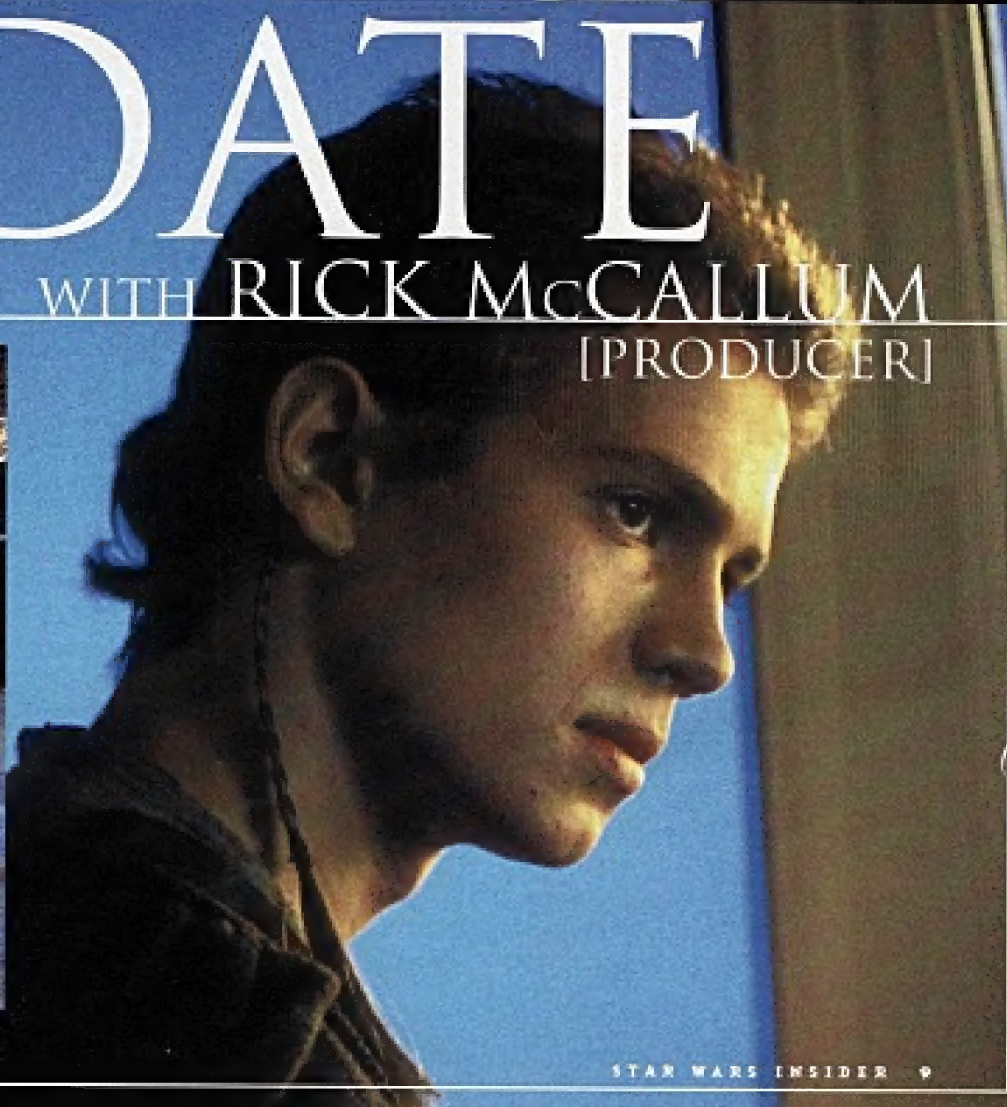
About half a year out from the film's release date, it's reassuring to be reminded that, in a world where most big movies seem to arise out of focus groups and marketing research, *Star Wars* remains a product of one person's creative inspiration. Of course, it remains the prerogative of fans to fret on the 'Net as each new announcement emanates from Skywalker Ranch. To fans who might have reacted with a bit of doubt when they first heard the words *Attack of the Clones*, McCallum offers this suggestion: "Don't make the same mistake you made on *The Phantom Menace*. A lot of fans hated that title when it was first released, but now they love it. At first you have to live with it and think about it. Then you need to understand there is a reason it is there. There is an overall reason for everything. Have faith, and all will be revealed in time."





UPDATE

WITH RICK MCCALLUM
[PRODUCER]



EPISODE II PREQUEL UPDATE



What's a Producer For?

The producer's title can be meaningless, McCallum explains. "On the average Hollywood film, a producer could be a star's agent. It all depends on the project. There is also the nuts and bolts of actually doing it, which is the producer's job. I have been a producer where I had to originate the material and finance it. But, in the case of George and me, George basically finances the movie and enables it to happen." Rick's responsibility is to manage the nuts-and-bolts, day-to-day part, "making sure everything is done the

way [George] wants it and bringing it in on schedule and on budget."

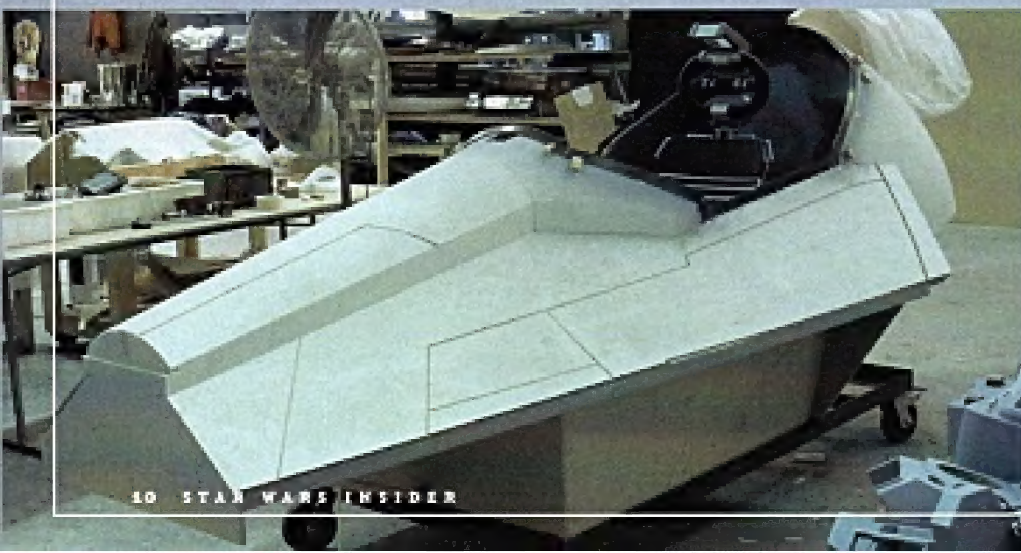
In general, a producer's script input varies from one project to another. Here, though, "Star Wars is unique in that it was totally created by George. He totally created the universe, the world, and the galaxy. When something doesn't work, I will ask him about it or if there is something I don't understand. But usually he has a serious, logical answer and you can't fight that logic because that is the logic of Star Wars—it is the logic he created. It would be like asking God, Well, why did you put this valley here?"



[TOP] A special effects pit crew tightens bolts aboard Obi-Wan Kenobi's Jedi starfighter. Photo by Sue Adler.

[ABOVE] Obi-Wan Kenobi (Ewan McGregor) and R4-P17 (himself) survey the strange alien environs where they have landed the Jedi starfighter. Photo by Lisa Tomasetti.

[LEFT] It might not look like much, but it's got it where it counts. Obi-Wan Kenobi's new Jedi starfighter undergoes construction. Photo by Giles Westley.





[TOP] No, it's not the Boy George fan club. Consucent—the city-planet with a million stories, and dozens of extras. Here is a sampling of the megapolopolis' back alley citizens. Photo by Sue Adler.

Those of us anxious for the scoop on *Attack of the Clones* can only envy one of the producer's duties. At the current stage of post-production, Rick has seen a different cut of the film every two weeks for the past couple of months. He hastens to add, however, that he's not looking at the movie audiences will get to see next summer. "It's a work-in-

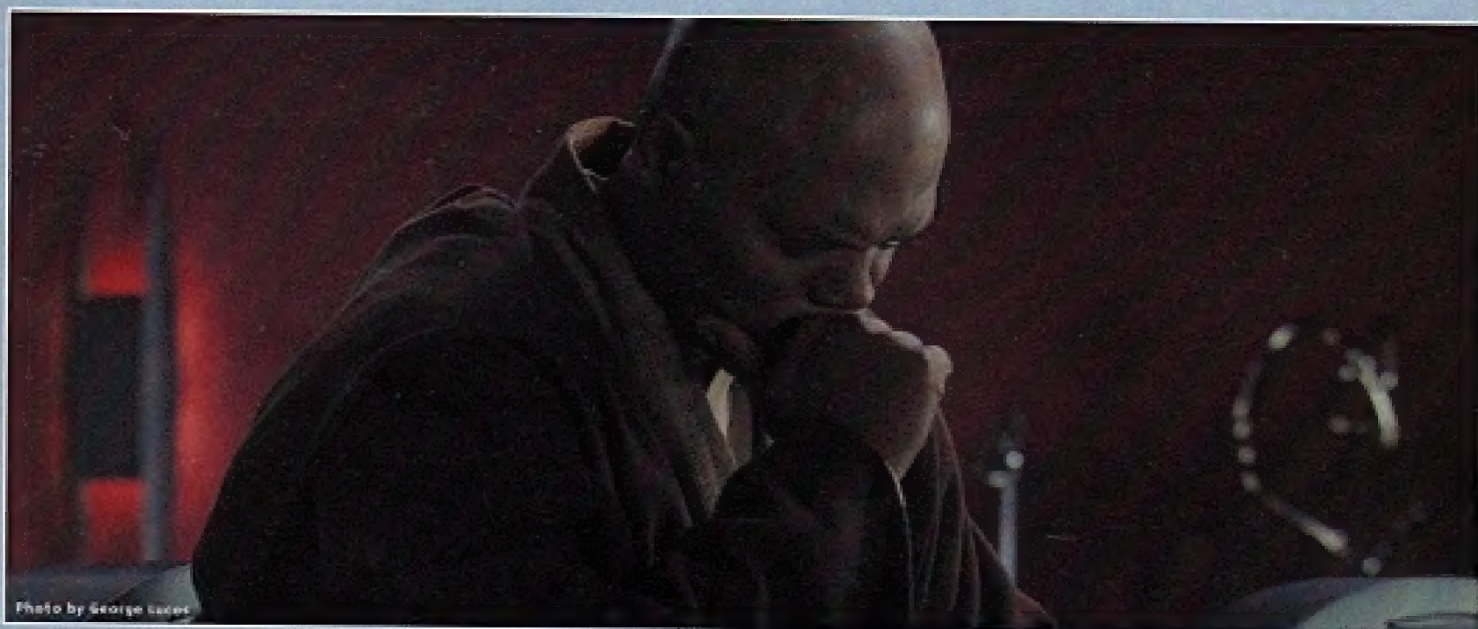
progress. In fact, the movie they will see, I will probably only see once, and that will be right before we deliver the film."

Need to Know

Unfortunately for intrepid interviewers, another of Rick's duties is clearly to keep us excited about the film without ruining its surprises.

Even at Lucasfilm, access to the current cut is kept on a strictly need-to-know basis. "The second cut of the film was shown to just a few people. It's something we do each time we're going through cuts. Whoever needs specific information will see the early cuts."

As of this writing, they're ramping up work on the trailer; it will probably hit movie screens in November. Rough-stage work on the marketing campaign, led by Marketing Vice President Jim Ward, has already begun. He's meeting with artists and putting concepts together. McCallum knows all too well that the pressure is already on: "We only have 9 months so, like everything, there is going to be a rush and lots of time and lots of effort and dozens of people working on it right to the day it is released."



"THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER WE WILL BEGIN WORKING ON CONCEPTUAL DESIGNS FOR EPISODE III—CERTAIN SEQUENCES GEORGE HAS IN HIS MIND THAT HAVEN'T BEEN WRITTEN DOWN YET."

—RICK MCCALLUM



[ABOVE] Padmé Amidala (Natalie Portman) survives yet another round of musical chairs in the Theed Palace Throne Room. Despite his Jedi training, Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen) is out of this round. Photo by Lisa Tomasetti.

Even with the fast-approaching release of Episode II, McCallum reveals that work in earnest on Episode III starts this fall. There will be a few pick-up shoots on *Attack of the Clones*, but when they're complete, Lucas will begin working on the screenplay for Episode III. "From September on we are beginning work on Episode III while finishing Episode II.

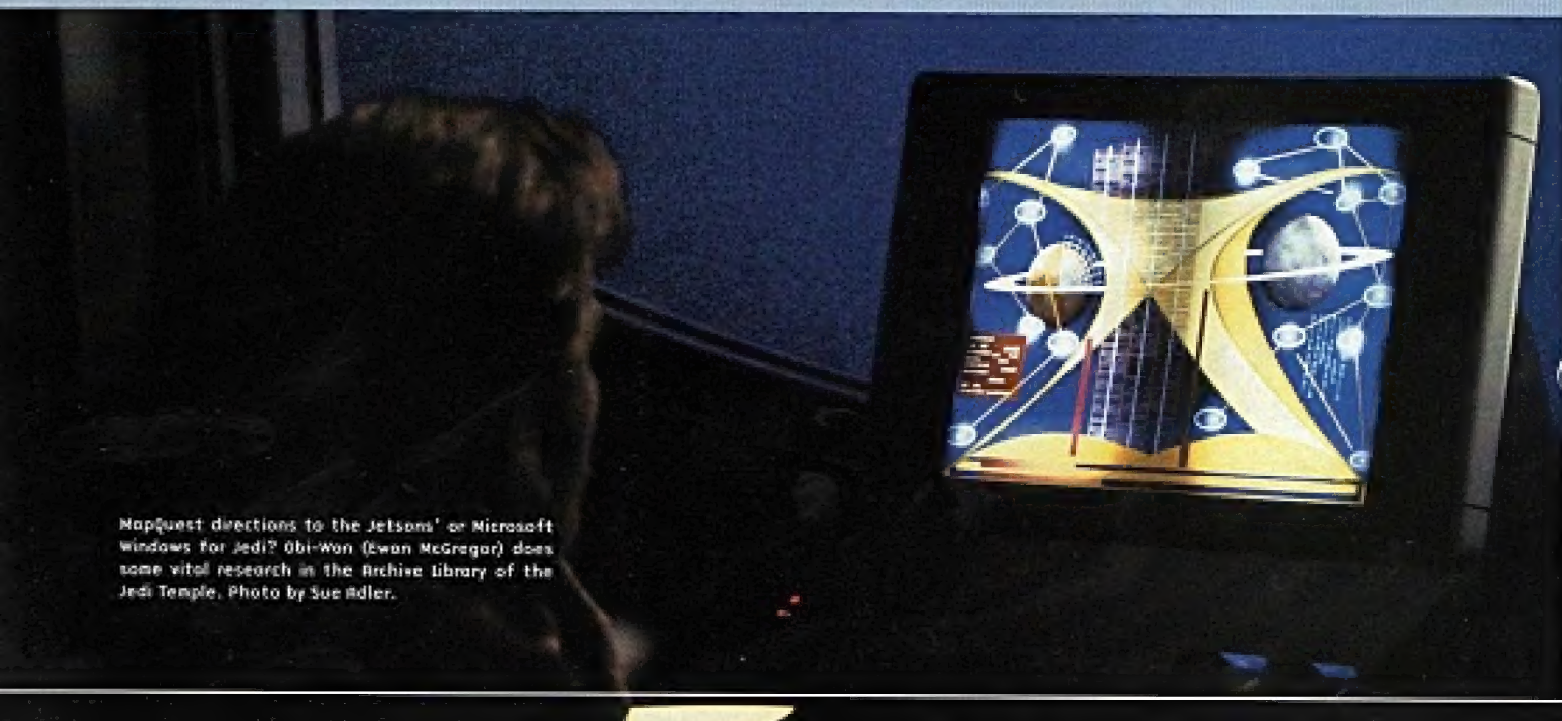
The beginning of September we will begin working on conceptual designs for Episode III—certain sequences George has in his mind that haven't been written down yet."

McCallum debunks rumors that casting for the final installment is already underway (as of July 2001). And it's certainly way too early to start feeling bittersweet about the end of

the *Star Wars* saga: "I don't even think about it seriously because it is so far into the future. There is still a lot of joy and pain to go through before the end comes around."

Playing to Your Strength

In fact, the early stages are one of his favorite parts of the moviemaking process. "Well, I



Mapquest directions to the Jetsons' or Microsoft Windows for Jedi? Obi-Wan (Ewan McGregor) does some vital research in the Archive library of the Jedi Temple. Photo by Sue Adler.

Podar (Natalie Portman) and Anakin (Hayden Christensen) have more than Blue Menures to be worried about in Episode 11. Photo by Keith Hamshire.



love the shooting because that involves the most people. It is the most precarious [stage] in that anything could happen. It's the one where you have to be in control most of the time. But, in terms of what is my favorite period, it would have to be prepping and shooting. I love to prep a movie."

Prep work is the best weapon of a producer who knows how unpredictable filmmaking can be. Even at this stage, McCallum won't hazard a

guess as to which of the three current episodes will prove the most challenging. "They are all separate and unique. Every film is so different. They are all equally challenging. You are always trying to top each one, but I think Episode III will be the benchmark for all of us."

He knows that the lessons learned on one film don't always prepare you for the surprises of the next. "I wish it were that way, but if that were the case, there wouldn't be so many

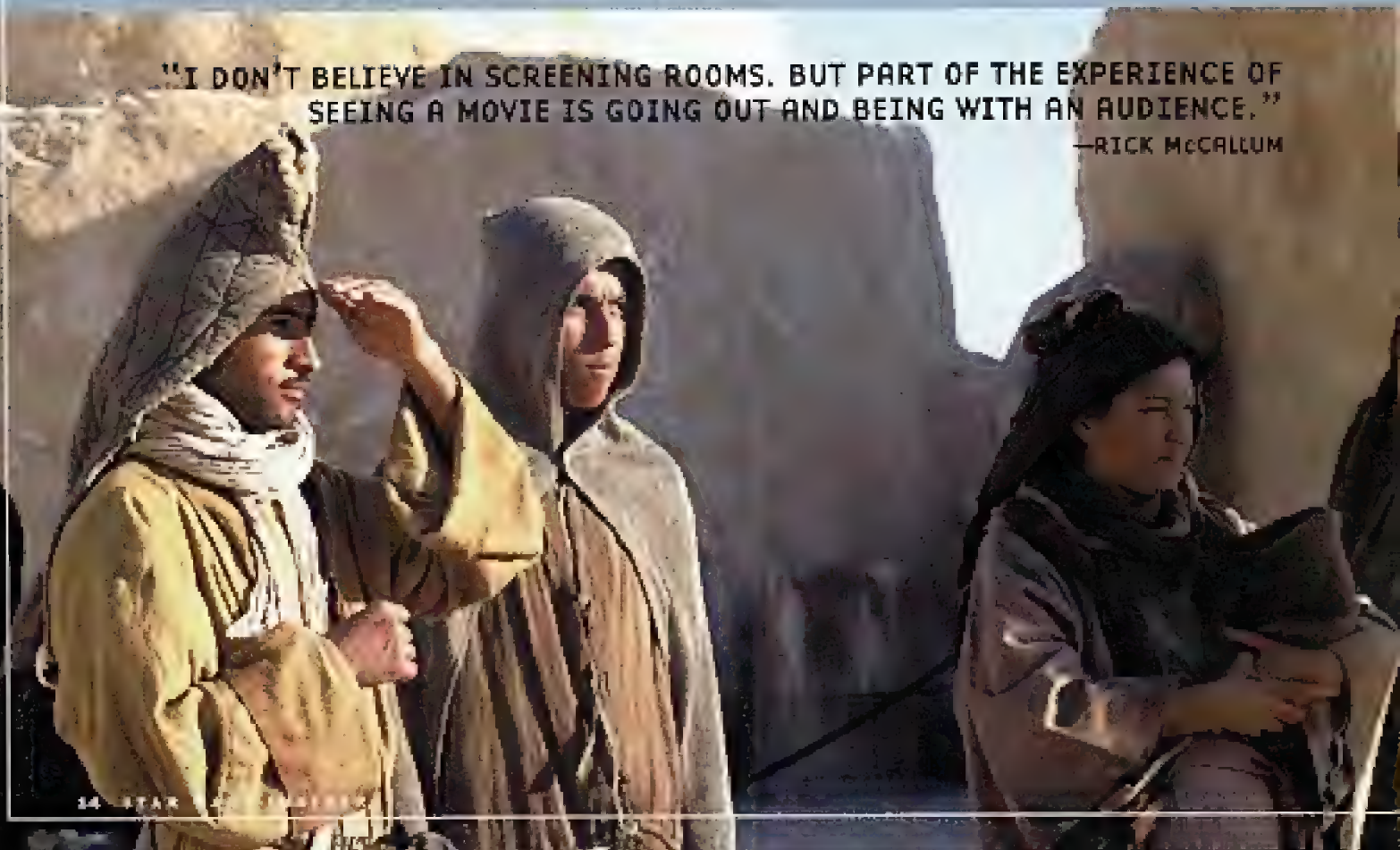
bad movies out there. They are all unique and just when you think you understand it all, it all changes. It has so much to do with the zeitgeist of the times, what people are interested in. You know, you make a movie three years before it comes out—anything could happen by then. Who would've guessed that *Rush Hour 2* would be the fourth highest grossing weekend of all time? That's what is so fantastic about the movies."

One thing McCallum knows for sure is that his interest in the directing side of the business is non-existent. "The very first thing I did was a director-fellow at the American Film Institute. I made a film [that] virtually, single-handedly, set back everything D.W. Griffith ever set out to do. Everything he did to create the language of cinema, I destroyed in one 20-minute film! And that's when I realized I was not cut out to be a director. In fact, my producer, named Ron Underwood, became a really good director. He was a lousy producer, and I was a lousy director and we both found out what we wanted to be on that film." (Underwood went on to direct *City Slickers* and *Mighty Joe Young*; not to mention the cult-favorite monster flick *Tremors*.)

Photo: Michael Ballhaas/Photo Bank; Photo: Michael Ballhaas/Photo Bank; Photo: Michael Ballhaas/Photo Bank

"I DON'T BELIEVE IN SCREENING ROOMS. BUT PART OF THE EXPERIENCE OF SEEING A MOVIE IS GOING OUT AND BEING WITH AN AUDIENCE."

—RICK MCCALLUM



For McCallum, producing remains his calling: "I have the greatest awe and respect for directors, and I love working for them, but I am not a director. You know, you either pretend you don't know what your talents are or you understand them very early on, and it is now very clear to me that my talent was being able to enable other talent to do what it is they want to do."

At the Movies

McCallum keeps his love of the medium stoked by constantly checking out new things. He sees six or seven films a week, enjoying movies of all kinds. "I like everything. Personally, I prefer European films, but my tastes change all the time. I usually go to the movies Friday and Saturday night, and the rest of the time I watch DVDs and videos."

Where the movie-going experience is concerned, he's a purist. "I never go to studio previews or see films in the screening room," he reveals. "I don't believe in screening rooms. But part of the experience of seeing a movie is going out and being with an audience. People



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forget, but the difference between seeing a movie at home and when you say, 'Hey darling, let's go out for dinner and a movie,' is that it's the beginning of an adventure! You don't know what's going to happen, you don't know if you will get there on time for the movie, if you will find parking, if the movie will be any good, etcetera. You have no idea how the audience will interact, but that's all part of seeing a movie with an audience."

He shares this sense of adventure with a certain colleague of his. "You know, George does that, too. He probably sees two or three movies a week."

But surely he gets recognized when he goes to a movie theater!

"Well, he's very low key. If you want to be low key, you're low key. If you want to be seen, you are seen!" ☺



[TOP] Looking to produce the year 2002 film *Star Wars: Episode II—Attack of the Clones*, Christensen has passed his passion for movies on to his 11-year-old son.



[BELOW] "They said to wait here while they fetch something called 'cocktail sauce.'" A handful of alien extras—Klatooinians, Quarren, and Bith—await the shooting of a Coruscant back alley sequence. Photo by Sue Adler.

[BELOW] Director George Lucas talks to Phoebe Yiamkiet and Alex Knoll, who play young Jedi trainees in Episode II. Photo by Lisa Tomaretti.



STAR NEWS

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FROM THE WORLD OF LUCASFILM

(VISIT www.starwarscelebration.com FOR THE LATEST NEWS)

STAR WARS CELEBRATION II 25 YEARS OF THE FORCE

MAY 3-5, 2002

INDIANAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER
INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Just 25 years after the release of *A New Hope*, and only weeks before *Attack of the Clones* hits the silver screen, *Star Wars* fans from around the world will descend upon Indianapolis to attend the largest official fan-fest ever. Held in the immense—and rain-proof—Indianapolis Convention Center, *Star Wars Celebration II* will boast over 340,000 square feet of pure *Star Wars*. Well over 20,000 fans are expected to join a horde of actors, artists, authors, dealers, vendors and exhibitors, becoming totally immersed in the ultimate *Star Wars* fan experience.

Just some of the events and attractions to look forward to are: special appearances (including autograph and Q&A sessions) by celebrities and behind-the-scenes talent from all five movies, a special showing of never-before-seen film footage, a collectibles trading area, the *Star Wars* Archive, an art show, an auction, contests for miniatures and costumes, *Star Wars* game events, a video gaming area, multiple screening rooms, and more.

Star Wars fans will have no shortage of things to do and see.



Collectors will be particularly interested in the *Star Wars Celebration II* merchandise available only at the event, including a special *Star Wars* action figure that will not be made available anywhere ever again.

Of course, the *Star Wars Celebration II* experience will be most complete for *Star Wars* Fan Club members, who will enjoy

several exclusive benefits. (It really won't be the same event for non-members—just another reason to enjoy being a part of the club.)

Even with the huge, everything-under-one-roof venue, space is limited, so early registration is important to ensure your place.

To get more information or to register, go to www.starwarscelebration.com or call 1-866-334-JEDI.

TRAILERS

By the time you're reading this, *Star Wars* fans have seen the first trailers for *Star Wars: Attack of the Clones* both online and in theaters.

Owners of *The Phantom Menace* on DVD were the first to see the Episode II footage through a special website accessible with the disc in the computer's DVD-ROM drive. This QuickTime internet preview explores the mysteries of *Attack of the Clones* as our heroes are confronted with more questions than answers.

Episode II has hit the big screen as well—a teaser, anyway. This time, movie audiences saw



Podowon No Longer

Honorary Degree First Event in Scottish Actor's Busy Summer

Once he was but a learner, but now **EWAN MCGREGOR** (Obi-Wan Kenobi) is . . . a doctor. The actor received the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters this summer from the University of Ulster.

In his acceptance speech during the graduation ceremony, McGregor, 30, told students to

live their lives with passion. "I've always been driven with a passion," he said. "I've always striven toward being the best I could be. I still am."

The Scottish actor wore a traditional tartan kilt during the ceremony in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The university sought to honor him for his "services to drama and film in the U.K.," according to the *Belfast Telegraph*.

"I am often asked what I would have done if I was not an actor," he said. "That was not an option. I was always going to do it and do it to this level of success and I wish that for every one of you also."

McGregor graduated in 1992 from London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Although his grades were nothing stellar, he told the BBC he's going to start making his friends call him "doctor."

If this international celebrity follows his passions, his most recent is surely singing *Insider* #56). Following his captivating crooning in this spring's *Moulin Rouge*—singles like "Come What May" from the soundtrack hit the Top Ten in pop charts world-

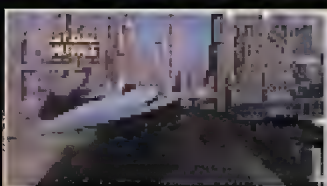
wide—McGregor was to perform in August at Glasgow's Gig on the Green. The mini music festival also attracted British singers Travis and Iggy Pop.

McGregor was to play the gig while in Glasgow shooting *Young Adam* (*Insider* #56) with director David McKenzie (*Scrooge: A Christmas Carol*). The thriller, based on a novel by Scottish writer Alexander Trochil, costars Tilda Swinton (*The Beach*). Its plot centers on a drifter who discovers a woman's corpse floating in the river while working on a barge between Glasgow and Edinburgh. *Young Adam* is supported in part by Scotland's government-backed film-funding agency Scottish Screen.

Earlier in August McGregor had another occasion to don his kilt when he served as Chieftain of Scotland's Highland Games. The annual Crieff games challenge contestants in the ancient arts of caber tossing (hefting a huge log end over end) and throwing the hammer (slinging an anvil over a bar some 10 feet



It's an Honor Just to be Nominated



As reported in *Variety's* Video Business publication, *Star Wars: Episode I The Phantom Menace* was primed for Video Premiere Awards weeks before it was even released, racking up nominations in each major DVD category:

- Best Overall New Extra Features
- Best Original Retrospective Documentary
- Best New, Enhanced, or Reconstructed Movie Scenes
- Best Audio Commentary
- Best DVD Menu Design

The Video Premiere Awards honors original creative work produced specifically for home video programming. The awards ceremony was scheduled to be held October 23 at the El Capitan Theater in Hollywood, so check out starwars.com for more news of the results. 🍌

RELEASED

glimpses of the blossoming romance between Senator Padmé Amidala and her Jedi protector, Anakin Skywalker. Their feelings for each other might be forbidden, but with the galaxy crumbling around them, can they afford to live a lie?

If you're one of the four people who haven't seen the trailers yet, head over to starwars.com.

We want to know what you think of your first glances of *Attack of the Clones* footage. There's a discussion happening online at the starwars.com forums, or share your thoughts at swinsider@wizards.com. 🍌



STAR SIGHTINGS

57

New York ♥ Natalie • Sexy Threepio?

by Sue Weinlein Cook

NATALIE PORTMAN

IPadmé Amidala), in New York for the Shakespeare in the Park production of *The Seagull*, has won the hearts of New Yorkers. *New York Magazine* voted her their



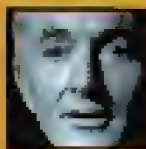
"Summer Fun Cover Girl," citing the Long Island actress's theater work, her starring role in Episode II, and her love for the New York Public Library. Thanks to her classic good looks, *Harpers & Queen* magazine is calling her "the new Audrey Hepburn." Those of us who don't live in the Big Apple got a chance to see her this summer playing a cameo role in Ben Stiller's new comedy, *Zoolander*.

Portman wowed the crowd this summer at the A.I. premiere in New York. According to E! Online, she embodied "hippie chic," wearing a white T-shirt, pink Indian print skirt, turquoise and coral jewelry, and a denim jacket. The actress also made an appearance at a party for the band U2 following the final concert in the U.S. portion of their tour. The *New York Post*, ever the journal of important tidings, reported that Portman, a vegan, was less than thrilled with the lack of macrobiotic hors d'oeuvres at the shindig. Yes, but what was she wearing?

Portman might be the "Summer Fun" girl, but you don't have to be human to be sexy. At least, that's the thinking of the voters in MovieFone.com's Android Appeal survey. In a poll asking visitors to the site to choose the sexiest robots, C-3PO came in at #5—beating out *Star Trek*'s Data but losing to *Blade Runner*'s Pris and Rachael as well as Ah-nold as The Terminator and the Stepford Wives. The site credits his smooth English accent and fluency in millions of languages as the key to Threepio's appeal. Good thing it wasn't his shiny gold plating. The droid you see in Episode II sports a dull plating instead.

Meanwhile, Threepio's alter-ego, **ANTHONY DANIELS**, recently had a small role on British TV in the series *Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased)*.

Speaking of polls, *Star Wars* was "the overwhelming favorite"



in a survey by Popcorn.co.uk of our favorite summer blockbusters of all time. Thousands participated in the survey, which awarded *The Matrix* the #2 spot, followed by *Gladiator*, *Titanic*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Terminator 2*, *Amadeus*, *Park*, *The Mummys*, and *Gone With the Wind*.

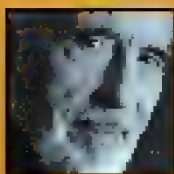
Look for **SAMUEL L. JACKSON** (*Mace Windu*) to star with Milla Jovovich (*The Fifth Element*) and Stellan Skarsgård (*Dancer in the Dark*) in *No Good Deed*. The police thriller, filming this summer under the directorship of Bob

Rafelson (*Five Easy Pieces*), is based on the Dashiell Hammett short story "The House on Turk Street." In a bit of departure from his *Shaft* role, Jackson plays a San Francisco cantelero detective who gets caught up with an international gang of bond thieves when he should be on vacation.

The actor recently told CNN that he asked Episode II filmmakers to make his lightsaber purple. "I can tell you I asked for a violet light," he said. "George thought about it and he said, 'Well, the good guys have this color light and the bad guys have that color light.' So he's debating whether he'll make my light something different or as common as everybody else's. But you know, I don't care as long as it comes on." [Editor's Note: George decided to give Mace his purple lightsaber, as recently revealed by the cover image to *Insider* #55 and confirmed by Steve Sansweet at the *Star Wars* Connections presentation at the San Diego Comic-Con.]

Besides Episode II, Jackson is also due to appear in *Changing Lanes* and *Fifty First Street* and to host the 16th annual American Cinematheque Award ceremony honoring Nicolas Cage (*The Family Man*) at the Moving Picture Ball September 22 in Beverly Hills. Don't worry if you don't have your tux. The event will be broadcast October 10 on TNT.

It's not the One Ring, but **CHRISTOPHER LEE** (*Count Dracula*), who appears this Christmas as Saruman in *The Fellowship of the Ring*, was recently awarded the Commander of the Order of the British Empire for Services to Drama. The presentation to Lee, 79, of one of Britain's highest awards was made in Queen Elizabeth's annual birthday honors list. Almost 1,000 were included in the list, but only 15 percent of them received a CBE (just shy of a knighthood) or higher honor. Other CBE recipients include Dudley Moore (*Arthur*) and Anthony Minghella (*The English Patient*).



Recently we in the States have seen Lee on public television in the *Gormenghast*. In the miniseries, based on Mervyn Peake's novel, he plays Ffay, the Earl of Gormenghast's faithful servant.

MARK HAMILL (Luke Skywalker) toured the country this summer promoting his cameo appearance in the new film *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*, directed by Kevin Smith (*Dogma*). The actor told *Entertainment Tonight* that his sons were big fans of the director, an unabashed *Star Wars* fan. "To me it's one of my favorite moments in Kevin's film, where in just off-handed dialogue (in *Clerks*) the guy says to the other guy, 'So what do you think—on the Death Star—was



that independent contractors or did they do in-house?" In the new film, Hamill plays an aging actor portraying the villain of a comic-book movie. Oh yeah—he has a lightsaber. "It's really fun, and I felt this is as close to a villain on *Batman* as I'll ever get."

CARRIE FISHER (*Leia Organa*) has a cameo in the film



(*Insider* #55), which was released in August. No stranger to comics, Hamill is working on a computer game based on his book *The Black Pearl*, and has a role on an upcoming episode of *V.I.P. E!* Online reports that he later will star with Christian Campbell (*The Piano Man's Daughter*), J.P. Piroc, (*Just Can't Get Enough*), and Sally Kirkland (*A Month of Sundays*), as a rock drummer's dad in the independent film *Thank You, Good Night*.

An autographed black-and-white photo of the star was recently auctioned on eBay for a paltry \$197.50! Proceeds from the sale went to support the Tampa, Florida, chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation.

The voice of Darth Maul, **PETER SERAFINOWICZ**, has a new show on the BBC, according to *Radio Times*. The six-part sitcom, *World of Pub*, also stars Phil Cornwall who, with Serafinowicz, runs London's least successful pub.

JAY LAGATAIA (a security officer) was host of *StarStruck*, an Australian talent show.



Mel's Drive-In, a diner made famous in *American Graffiti*, soon will be not only a part of history but also its neighbor. This summer, construction began on a new '50s-style diner in the refurbished Max Factor Building near Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles. The building will also house the Hollywood History Museum. Steve Weiss, Mel's co-owner, told KFWB that he hoped the new drive-in and museum would help revitalize the area. LA residents can look for the grand opening in November. Have a chocolate shake for us. . .

The American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has announced that films don't have to be on "film" to qualify for the annual Oscar awards. Presenting a feature to audiences via a "non-video-tape digital process" also applies. Good news for Episode II, Lucasfilm's first all-digital feature.

Residents of Toledo, Ohio, have a new reason to celebrate. The *Star Wars: The Magic of Myth* exhibit arrived at the Toledo Museum of Art in August and runs until January 5. *Star Wars: The Magic of Myth* (*Insider* #35) was developed by the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum and organized for travel by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. All of the artifacts in this exhibition

high). His father, James, is a director of the century-old event, so Ewan is no stranger to the games. His mother, Carol, told the *World Entertainment News Network*, "Ewan's been involved in the games since he was just a lad and is delighted that they've recognized him this year."

Recently, British television audiences have caught McGregor in another of his passions: making wildlife documentaries. Ewan *McGregor: The Bear Facts*, which aired in July on the BBC, tells the story of polar bears who descend on a Canadian town looking for food when the sun melts their icy homes. Another BBC nature film—*Trips That Money Can't Buy*, scheduled to air in late August—has McGregor venturing into the jungles of Central America with wildlife expert Ray Mears. Meanwhile, McGregor and *The Bear Facts*' director Doug Allan have already discussed returning to the Arctic for a film that would send them diving beneath the ice into the habitat of beluga whales and, yes, more polar bears.

As if that isn't enough to keep him busy, the actor also has signed on to judge Turner Classic Movies' "Classic Shorts 2001" competition. This short film contest for U.K. filmmakers, which takes place during

ARTOO'S STORY REVEALED

"For 25 years, Artoo Detoo has been one of the most beloved actors ever to appear on film," raves Lucasfilm Vice-President of Marketing, Jim Ward. "We get calls from the fans and the press all the time asking all about the guy—where he came from, what's his story, what's he up to now. To be honest, we had no idea."



The early days found Artoo (left) with directors Francis Ford Coppola and George Lucas, working on the classic sci-fi film *THROUGH THE WOODS*. He was later cast in the role of the droid in *STAR WARS*.

the 45th Regus London Film Festival November 7th to 22nd, seeks to spotlight the classic directors of the future. Other judges include directors Ridley Scott (*Gladiator*, *Alien*, *Braveheart*), John Madden (*Captain Corelli's Mandolin*, *Shakespeare in Love*), and Anthony Minghella (*The English Patient*, *The Talented Mr. Ripley*).

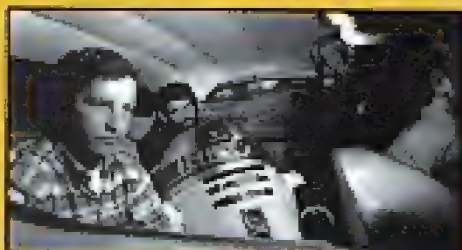
count jester, Salacious Crumb. Production models on display include the original six-foot Millennium Falcon, an AT-AT walker, and a snowspeeder. The exhibition is accompanied by an excellent audio tour narrated by JAMES EARL JONES (Darth Vader), as well as a documentary film featuring interviews with George Lucas, the films' actors, and artists who worked on the *Star Wars* saga.

During *Star Wars: The Magic of Myth*, the museum also presents an exhibition titled "The Heroic

"Artoo's drinking problem began affecting production as early as Episode IV: A New Hope."



During his days on the set of *American Graffiti*, Artoo (above) was often spotted with his favorite drink (left). He's also been spotted with a bottle of beer (right).



Richard Dreyfuss and Artoo were once the best of pals, until something so disturbing drove them apart. (Artoo's drinking problem was a long time coming.)

With Artoo's return in Episode III, Ward tasked the documentary crew to find the real story. But every answer only raised further questions. As the facts were gleaned and the pieces of the puzzle put together, the true tale of this troubled artist unfolded—from his estranged relationship with his father, his struggle as an artist with physical challenges, the price of fame and his come-back to prominence.

Lucasfilm's latest documentary, *Artoo Detoo: Beneath the Dome*, tells the mechanical actor's true story for the first time. Featuring many of Artoo's famous associates, including Ewan McGregor, Carrie Fisher, Steven Spielberg, Francis Ford Coppola, and Samuel L. Jackson, an exclusive preview airs during the November 25th broadcast premiere of *The Phantom Menace* on Fox.

The documentary itself appears in installments on www.starwars.com, concluding in December.

Artoo's story is a true tale of a man who has become a legend. He's a hero to many, and he's a hero to many more.



are on loan from the archives of Lucasfilm Ltd. This popular exhibition of treasures from the Lucasfilm archives presents more than 250 models, props, costumes, and original artwork from the *Star Wars* films.

The Toledo Museum of Art is one of only eight top museums to host this show, among the most-visited Smithsonian exhibitions of all time, and, according to *Museums New York* magazine, one of the year's top-ten must-see exhibitions. Highlights of the show include C-3PO and R2-D2, Chewbacca, Yoda, and Darth Vader. Also displayed in the exhibition are the crime lord, Jabba the Hutt, and his

count jester, Salacious Crumb. Production models on display include the original six-foot Millennium Falcon, an AT-AT walker, and a snowspeeder. The exhibition is accompanied by an excellent audio tour narrated by JAMES EARL JONES (Darth Vader), as well as a documentary film featuring interviews with George Lucas, the films' actors, and artists who worked on the *Star Wars* saga.

During *Star Wars: The Magic of Myth*, the museum also presents an exhibition titled "The Heroic

Tradition: Art and the Mythic Journey." Created by Jeffrey A. Brown of Bowling Green State University's department of popular culture, "The Heroic Tradition" focuses on objects from the museum's own collections that depict classical heroes on their journey to enlightenment.

Insider columnist Steve Sansweet conducted a seminar titled "Star Wars: From Film to Cultural Icon" at the museum on Sunday, October 7th. Tickets for *Star Wars: The Magic of Myth* are available by calling (419) 243-7000 or toll free at 1-888-763-7486, or visiting www.toledomuseum.org.



COM LINK

» A Star Wars Summer

Twice since the release of *Star Wars: A New Hope*, Lucasfilm has officially celebrated *Star Wars* conventions, once in 1977 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of *Star Wars*, and again in 1983 to celebrate the release of *Episode 4: A New Hope*. Celebration II will mark the third time a convention has been officially sanctioned. However, fans don't have to wait for a sanctioned event every year. Hundreds of conventions around the world feature *Star Wars* programming. Four of the largest take place each summer in the United States—*ExpoCon*, *Gen Con*, *Wizard World*, and *DragonCon*.

In conjunction with those four conventions, as well as a fifth event in Berlin, Liekefils sent Mike Meyerson out to tour JAT West last this past summer with a official look behind the scenes of episode 2. His presentation, *The Film Connection*, tied together the five previously selected institutions of the film way, says and pointed toward the release of episode 3 next summer. He also presented the long-awaited French DVD to festival audiences.

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The beautiful sheets of handmade Carolina played host to over 40,000 community attendees at this year's Convention at the San Diego Convention Center. This able statesman of the comic community scene played a major role in the launch of his *Worm* when Mark Hamill was set to promote the well-unfurlished film in 1976. The first ever page of that story magazine was sold at that show, a gesture by Howard Chaykin that sold for \$1 then, and fetched upwards of \$1,500 on the secondary market now. Thus, it was an appropriate place to kick off *Worm's* Convention story.

Also from University completed 2nd semester
and presented his findings publicly. He holds an
Fellowship & works under the supervision of Prof.

From Dick Tracy, *Die Hard* presented a concept similar to *McQueen*: *Die Hard* (1978) starred Bruce Willis (John McClane), a New York City cop, who saves a Christmas Eve party at a hotel from being blown up by a group of terrorists. *Die Hard* was a huge success, spawning a series of films, including *Die Hard 2*, *Die Hard with a Vengeance*, *Die Hard: Bad Boys*, and *Die Hard: Under Siege*. The *Die Hard* series has inspired a number of other action films, including *John Wick*, *John Doe*, *John Doe 2*, *John Doe 3*, *John Doe 4*, *John Doe 5*, *John Doe 6*, *John Doe 7*, *John Doe 8*, *John Doe 9*, *John Doe 10*, *John Doe 11*, *John Doe 12*, *John Doe 13*, *John Doe 14*, *John Doe 15*, *John Doe 16*, *John Doe 17*, *John Doe 18*, *John Doe 19*, *John Doe 20*, *John Doe 21*, *John Doe 22*, *John Doe 23*, *John Doe 24*, *John Doe 25*, *John Doe 26*, *John Doe 27*, *John Doe 28*, *John Doe 29*, *John Doe 30*, *John Doe 31*, *John Doe 32*, *John Doe 33*, *John Doe 34*, *John Doe 35*, *John Doe 36*, *John Doe 37*, *John Doe 38*, *John Doe 39*, *John Doe 40*, *John Doe 41*, *John Doe 42*, *John Doe 43*, *John Doe 44*, *John Doe 45*, *John Doe 46*, *John Doe 47*, *John Doe 48*, *John Doe 49*, *John Doe 50*, *John Doe 51*, *John Doe 52*, *John Doe 53*, *John Doe 54*, *John Doe 55*, *John Doe 56*, *John Doe 57*, *John Doe 58*, *John Doe 59*, *John Doe 60*, *John Doe 61*, *John 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There were also quite a few Star Wars actors on hand to sign autographs, including Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca), Jeremy Bullock (Boba Fett), Henry Geller (Yoda), Phil Brown (Luke Skywalker), Anthony Daniels (C-3PO), Warwick Davis (Wicket) and Michael Lonsdale (Admiral Moff Tarkin).

The highlight of the show for the West Africa community had to be Miss Nigeria's Queen Tere

presentations with showings were showing room only, and you could still sit in the comfort of the air as we noticed scents from the beauty of the world. It is just a wonderful way to capture a great San Diego community.

www.gom

The San Antonio Fall has been held in Mission since 1967 and has become the regularity of gaining conversions. In recent years, it has added a broader entertainment program, which includes appearances from famous stars both movies and television. City Doc Williams, Randy Cushman was on hand to light waterfalls and run a gun fire performance. Mission, Bortoluzzi joined him as the other San Mateo guests this year.

The coast suspect attended, but the focus of Tak Con has always been on games. The huge Wizards of the Coast table featured a large corner devoted to the Sci-Fi West Roleplaying Game. Large, signed, 3D dioramas were provided, depicting various scenes from the Sci-Fi West universe, including a cloning bay and a familiar-looking battle station. Our very RPG designers and editors were on hand to run introductory scenarios using these dioramas and Mattel's 1:100 figures. In reviewing Japan's disaster, it was almost easy to get a taste of Sci-Fi West roleplaying. 

Neeson Film on Oscar Contender?

Actor Hosts Party for Michael Jackson

LIAM NEESON's (Qui-Gon Jinn) much anticipated new film—*Gangs of New York*, directed by Martin Scorsese (*Goodfellas*)—is an Oscar contender even months before its release, according to *The National Post Online*.

Critics are already calling *Gangs of New York* (Insider #56) a frontrunner for the Best Picture Academy Award nomination. Although three times nominated for best director, Scorsese has never taken home an Oscar.

The film, which depicts the gang wars between New York's Anglo-Protestant poor and the

wave of Irish-Catholic immigrants in the days before the Civil War, also stars Daniel Day-Lewis (*The Last of the Mohicans*). Cameron Diaz (*Charlie's Angels*), and Leonardo DiCaprio (*The Beach*).

While we await the opening of *Gangs*, director Jim Sheridan (*Lost Resort*) has tapped Neeson to star with Paddy Considine in his new Irish emigration drama *East of Harlem*. Neeson would play Considine's uncle in this film loosely based on the experiences of the director's own family as newcomers to America. The film, set in rural Ireland and New

York, is scheduled to begin production in spring.

This fall Neeson served as a chairman for Michael Jackson's 20th Anniversary Celebration, the Solo Years. The all-star salute to the king of pop, Jackson's first live performance in the continental U.S. in 11 years, was slated to take place September 7th and 10th at Madison Square Garden. Neeson and the other chairmen of the event—including Whitney Houston, Yoko Ono, Gregory Peck, and Elizabeth Taylor—hosted a champagne-

and-candy dinner (which was to include a carnival) for Jackson at Tavern on the Green following the first of the two concerts. The shows featured a reunion of The Jacksons and coincided with the release of Jackson's new album, *Invincible*.

While his *Phantom Menace* costar Ewan McGregor focuses on Arctic documentaries, Neeson turns his sights to the South Pole. The actor has narrated a new documentary, *Endurance: Shackleton's*



by Lisa Stevens



NEXT ISSUE: **58**

STAR WARS INSIDER

RETURN TO TATOOINE

Joel Edgerton (*Queen Lore*) and Bonnie Piesse (*Beru Whitesun*) talk about their experiences making *Attack of the Clones*.

Gambler, Con-Artist, All-Around Scoundrel
Billy Dee Williams (*Lando Calrissian*)
reminisces about his *Star Wars* days and
tells us what he's up to.

NEW COLUMN Behind the Magic
Go behind closed doors at
Industrial Light & Magic to see
how Watto went from concept
to completion.

Star Wars Celebration II
There's going to be a big party
in Indianapolis this spring.
Find out how you can be there.

ALSO >>



BONNIE PIESSE



JOEL EDGERTON



WATTO

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Go to www.wizards.com/magazines and
follow the links to our Online Reader Survey.
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certificate to swfan.wizards.com!

Legendary Antarctic Expedition, directed by George Butler. (Editor's Note: Don't miss this exceptional account of one of the most astonishing adventures of the 20th century.) According to Reuters, the film uses footage shot from 1914-1915 by the expedition's own photographer to depict the group's struggle to survive when their ship was caught by a glacier, leaving them stranded for almost two years. The film was to make its U.S. premiere September 21st on 200 to 300

screens nationwide. Variety reports, "You also might have heard Neeson this summer narrating the documentary *Journey into Amazing Caves* or reciting poetry in *Riverdance—On Broadway* by Irish writers W.B. Yeats, Seamus Heaney, Arthur O'Shaughnessy, and Theo Dorgan.

You can see Neeson on screen early next year in the Cold War submarine thriller *K-11: The Widowmaker* (*Insider* #56), co-starring **HARRISON FORD** (Han Solo). ☺

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STAR WARS Gamer

THE FORCE IN STAR WARS GAMING

Living on the Fringe

7

Red Sky, Blue Flame

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STAR WARS INSIDER 25



BIRTH OF THE **BOUNTY** **HUNTER**



BOBA FETT & JANGO FETT

THE TRUTH IS FINALLY REVEALED IN

STAR WARS: EPISODE II ATTACK OF THE CLONES

LURKING IN THE DARKNESS

Lurking in the darkness, a bounty hunter aims a deadly EE-3 blaster rifle,

MACROBINOCULAR VIEWPLATE

his eyes trained on his unwitting prey through the macrobinocular viewplate

BATTLE-SCARRED HELMET

of his battle-scarred helmet. With a startlingly quick precision,

JET PACK

the armored figure with the jet pack disintegrates his bounty

ROCKETING AWAY

and is rocketing away.

For Boba Fett, it's another routine day's work, yet those who cross his path might forever wonder, well, "Who was that masked man?"

For over two decades, growing legions of fans have wondered the same thing. With scant screen time, a silent-but-deadly attitude, and the most happening look in outer space, Boba Fett became one of the most popular characters in the *Star Wars* universe—all the while remaining a complete mystery.

Sure, we know he's a bounty hunter, and a good one—first among Darth Vader's all-stars in tracking Han Solo to Bespin. But we know as much about Boba Fett's background as we do about what's underneath his helmet. Let's face it: We don't even know he's a he. We've been using he based on nothing but the sound of his voice—and if you've ever heard Princess Leia do her Boushh impression, then you know how shaky that reasoning is.

But now, after years of questions, theories, and subterfuge, Boba Fett is emerging from the shadows. In *Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones*, Fett is finally unmasked. For the first time, Fett fans will learn about the character's history, identity, and destiny, and discover how the feared bounty hunter played a key role in the genesis of the galaxy's greatest conflict.

Bringing the Fett legacy to the screen is such a huge undertaking, in fact, that it requires two actors to do it. Newcomer Daniel Logan, 14, plays the young Boba Fett, a boy who has a unique relationship with his father, the ruthless, brutal bounty hunter Jango Fett. It is Jango, played with menacing intensity by acclaimed actor Temuera Morrison (*Once Were Warriors*, *Vertical Limit*), who will wear the armor, pilot a familiar starship, and fight eye-poppingly intense battles with Jedi. In other words, Jango is the Fett in *Attack of the Clones* who will remind fans most of the Fett they know from *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*.

But with Daniel Logan as Jango's razor-sharp offspring, fans will not only learn where Boba Fett comes from but also gain some clues as to what makes him tick and why he grows up to be the infamous killer we've known him as—the guy who Darth Vader has to warn, "No disintegrations." Yet along with revealing the origin of the grown Boba Fett, *Episode II* also shows the notorious bounty hunter in a new light.

Insider recently cracked down the actors behind the masks of Jango Fett and Boba Fett, Temuera Morrison and Daniel Logan. We present them to you now—before they slip away yet again.

BY **SCOTT CHERNOFF**

TEMUERA MORRISON: ONCE

BOB BIRTH OF THE BOUNTY HUNTER FETT

A charismatic New Zealand superstar is the man beneath the armor of Jango Fett in *Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones*.

It didn't take Temuera Morrison long to get into character as Jango Fett. In fact, he had barely arrived at Fox Studios Australia in Sydney last summer before he donned the armor, helmet, and bounty hunting weaponry that looked like a prototypical version of Boba Fett's legendary getup. That's when the fun began.

"As soon as I had it on, my boots and everything, I started jumping around the costume department," Morrison told *Star Wars Insider*. "I cleared a little area and was running around, doing some of my fight moves. I couldn't help it—I got quite excited."

Of course, who could blame him? Even though Temuera Morrison is a household name in his native New Zealand, where he starred in the nation's all-time box-office champ *Once Were Warriors*, the actor admits that joining the cast of *Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones* takes his career to a whole new level. "I'm entering into another realm," he said. "Everybody wants to be in *Star Wars*."

Can't wait to see Jango Fett in action in *Attack of the Clones*? Then rocket over to your local video store and check out these prime performances of Temuera Morrison.

THE FUTURE WARRIOR



"Testing, one . . . two . . . three . . ." Temuera Morrison enjoys a brief respite from a small fan while his helmet gets some retouching. Photo by Giles Westley.



BOB BIRTH OF THE BOUNTY HUNTER

JANGOPALOOZA

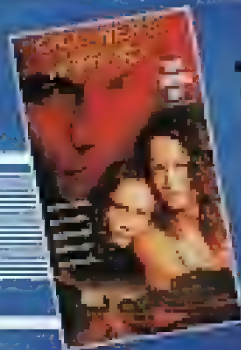
THE ESSENTIAL FILMS OF TEMUERA MORRISON

- Once Were Warriors (1994)
- Barb Wire (1996)
- The Island of Dr. Moreau (1996)
- Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997)
- Six Days, Seven Nights (1998)
- What Becomes of the Broken Hearted? (1999)

- From Dusk Till Dawn 3: The Hangman's Daughter (2000)
- Vertical Limit (2000)

AND COMING SOON . . .

- Crooked Earth (2001)
- Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones (2002)





Temuera Morrison (Jango Fett) and Daniel Logan (Boba Fett) have almost as much in common as do the characters they play. Photo by Sue Adler.

But while the acclaimed actor, 41, can expect an exponential increase in recognition for his work on Episode II, Morrison said the work itself is still the same. The process starts with the character—and that's why Morrison was so eager to get into costume. "You get most of your stuff from your outfit," he said, "because it gives you all that texture. It starts from all these organic feelings you get while you're in costume. You have to walk

the way you can walk in it, which gives you a little bit of character as well."

Besides, Morrison said, trying on Fett's gear was pretty much the only thing he could do to prepare for the role. "There wasn't any real spaceship available for me to go up and do some research," he joked.

Indeed, the actor was given only the pages of the script on which Jango appeared, leaving him little idea of how his character fit into

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

1. According to General Rieekan, what's not as easy thing to live with?
2. How long does it take for the Sarlacc to digest its prey?
3. In *Return of the Jedi*, how many credits did Ewoks ultimately agree to take for the bounty on Chewbacca?
4. What rival did Boba Fett outbid in space above Tatooine to deliver Han Solo to Jabba the Hutt?
5. What is the name of Jabba's sail barge in *Return of the Jedi*?

the larger story. "It's all a little bit fragmented for me," he said. "There wasn't any totality for me, I'm dying to see it, so I can see where my part of the jigsaw fits in. I'm not quite sure how it all develops. But when we actually started to work, I just went with the flow. I had read my pages, and [casting director] Robin Gurland gave me a little information. She told me I was a bad guy."

More than just any old bad guy, Jango Fett is the bounty hunting bad guy who is the progenitor of legendary mercenary Boba Fett. Yet Morrison didn't realize just how amazing it is to play the proto-Fett when he first landed the part. While he had been a big fan of George Lucas' *American Graffiti* ("I liked all the hot cars in that movie," he enthused), Morrison had seen *Star Wars* mostly through the eyes of his 10-year-old son, leaving him only "slightly" aware of the cult icon that is Boba Fett.

That's why when Robin Gurland told him he'd been cast in Episode II, Morrison let his joy at joining the *Star Wars* universe keep him from realizing that he had no idea who he was to play. "When Robin called to tell me, I wasn't quite sure who it was. She said, 'You're playing Jango Fett, Boba Fett's father,' and I just said,

'Great! Beautiful! That sounds good!' Then, when I hung up, I said, 'Who the hell is that?'

Morrison's friends were only too happy to fill him in. "I asked around, and everybody said, 'Boba Fett—he was the coolest! Everybody had a Boba Fett toy.' Now I know that Boba Fett was one of the most popular characters in the *Star Wars* saga. With Fett, I'm fortunate to have such a dynamic role, to be playing the father of one of the popular characters from the earlier trilogy.

"I'm the original bounty hunter. Whatever Boba Fett is, he takes it from me."

Morrison comes from a famous family of singers in New Zealand. His uncle, Sir Howard Morrison, is one of the nation's most beloved performers, and Temuera grew up singing and acting. In his hometown of Rotorua, a coastal town and top tourist destination in New Zealand, he showcased his heritage by performing with Maori cultural troupes, showing tourists the arts and culture of the

"When the helmet was on my head, I had trouble breathing, seeing, and everything—so there were a lot of curse words underneath my helmet."

—Temuera Morrison

indigenous Maori people who descended from New Zealand's first Polynesian settlers.

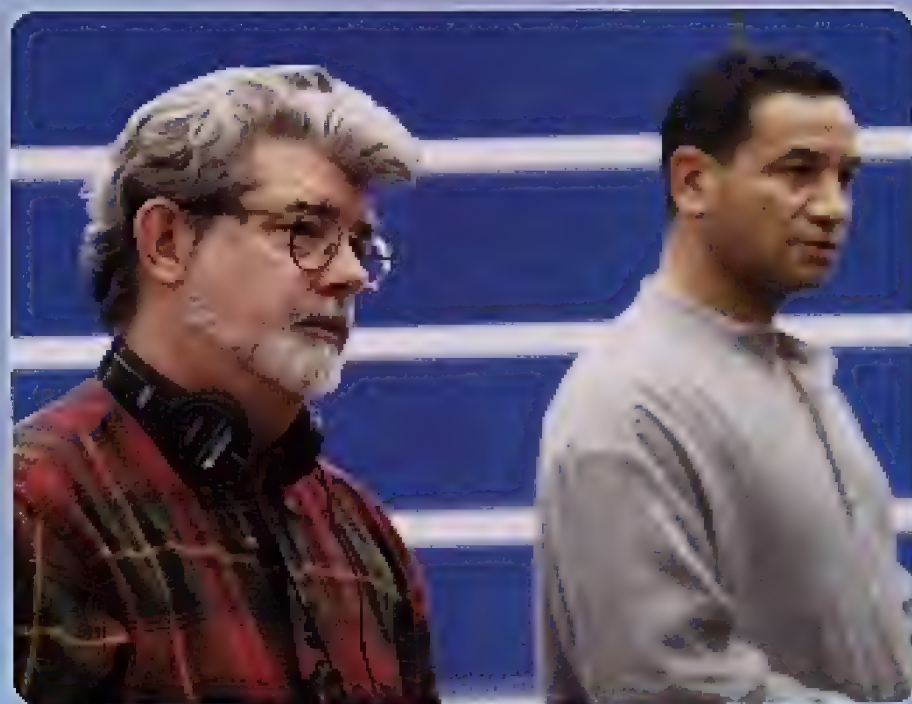
Morrison had opportunities to see beyond Rotorua by virtue of his famous family, with whom he toured the world singing. His father was an entertainer as well, but despite the family's fame, he earned his living as a civil engineer. "Down in New Zealand, you have to be a jack-of-all-trades," Morrison explained, adding, "It was not a rich upbringing, but it was quite a cultural upbringing."

True to his father's example, Morrison grew up to be something of a jack-of-all-trades himself. "I ended up becoming a journalist, and then I went into television journalism," he said. "Then, I thought I'd do a bit of acting on the side, so I did a little bit of extra work. Then I went into radio and did radio work for quite some time."

Even now that he's an international star, Morrison is hatching projects that have nothing to do with the movies. "I'm working on a

"I wonder if George realizes I can't hear anything through this headband. . . . I hope he's saying something funny." Temuera Morrison and Daniel Cogan go over the script with George Lucas and Assistant Director James McFieque. Photo by Sue Adler.





George Lucas and Temuera Morrison talk about a scene in Jango Fett's apartment. Photo by Usa Tomasetti.

number of things," he said. "I'm working on some water deals, trying to get New Zealand's pure water to America."

He's also juggling a multi-faceted show business career that spans far beyond any one film. "I'm presenting a television series for my friend called *Makuru*, set around Maori ghost stories, and then my other friend is making six Maori love stories, and I'm supposed to be directing one of those, but I can't be bothered with all the stress at the moment, so I'll probably just do a small acting role in that. People are asking me to direct these little TV dramas back home, but I'm just waiting for the right one. Maybe I'll have to write it myself."

If he does direct, he'll be going against the advice of his fellow *Star Wars* star Harrison Ford, with whom Morrison worked in 1998's *Six Days, Seven Nights*. "I said, 'Harrison, when are you going to direct or produce your own film?' He said, 'What, and get all that stress for half the money? I doubt it!' He said, 'I've got the greatest job in the world.'"

That's an opinion Morrison shares, explaining that it was a stint as an extra that inspired him to move to Auckland in 1983, determined to make it in what he was convinced would be the easiest job in the world. "When I was being an extra," he recalled. "It seemed

like acting was the easiest thing to do—and they feed you and pay you a lot of money. I don't know what they throw all these tantrums about—if you know your lines and do your character research, it ends up being the easiest job in the world."

Morrison soon realized acting was more than just free food and easy money. "It's only easy because you've been doing it for a little while and you know a few tricks now," he said. "When you first start off in the business, it's a totally different game."

Still, Morrison made it look easy—his first adult role in 1986, in a film called *Other Halves*, scored him a nomination as Best Supporting Actor at the New Zealand Film Awards. Two years later, he snared another nomination, this time for Best Actor, for his first starring role in *Never Say Die*. He also served as a language advisor for the Maori cast of 1993's Oscar-winning *The Piano*. But Morrison found the most initial success on television, starring in the popular soap opera *Shortland Street* for three years.

Despite his growing fame, Morrison was a surprising choice for director Lee Tamahori when the filmmaker cast Morrison—best known as *Shortland's* sweet-hearted, hunky doctor—in *Once Were Warriors* (1994) as Jake Heke,

the abusive yet charismatic husband of the film's heroine, Beth—played by Rena Owen, who's also in the Episode II cast. But Morrison's intense performance earned him awards for Best Actor and Entertainer of the Year, and powered *Once Were Warriors* to the top of the list of New Zealand's all-time box office champions.

That success was repeated when Morrison revisited the character for the 1999 sequel *What Becomes of the Broken Hearted?*, in which his character searched for redemption. The result was a second Best Actor award and the second-highest grossing film in New Zealand history. Next up is another collaboration with *Warriors* producer Robin Scholes called *Crooked Earth*, which he called "a story of brothers, land, and leadership," adding, "I'm interested in seeing how *Crooked Earth* does at our local box office. I might have one, two, and three!"

But *Crooked* is not a sequel. "I'm trying to get rid of that Jake guy," Morrison confessed of the role for which he's become known. "It's a bit hard at the moment. They've used it quite significantly in the domestic violence arena, in terms of trying to help, and they've used it in workshops and even educational programs. The film has ended up having quite a significant social impact here."

The film also had a major impact on Morrison's career, catapulting him into Hollywood films. Soon after *Warriors*, the actor found himself making an inauspicious American debut in Pamela Anderson's big screen debacle *Barb Wire*, but the offers got better, and soon Morrison was playing opposite Marlon Brando in *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, Ford in *Six Days, Seven Nights*, Sandra Bullock in *Speed 2*, and Chris O'Donnell in last year's action hit *Vertical Limit*. Morrison also starred in the direct-to-video sequel *From Dusk Till Dawn 3: The Hangman's Daughter*, which he called "a great film if you like stabbing vampires."

Now, with *Attack of the Clones*, Morrison is set to step into that new realm, cutting a powerful figure as Jango Fett. The actor met Robin Gurland at a time when they both happened to be in Los Angeles. "We had a lovely chat," he recalled. "She rolled some video, and I had a nice chat with her. She had seen *Warriors*, and I think that went a long way."

It's a style that suits Morrison just fine. "Once I'm on the set," he said, "I've just got to focus on what I'm doing that day. I knew I had an opportunity, only here and there when the helmet comes off, to shine. I tried to make the most of those moments when the helmet was off and try to get a nice flow."

Perhaps that's because when the famous helmet was on, acting wasn't the first thing on Morrison's mind. "When the helmet was on my head, I had trouble breathing, seeing, and everything—so there were a lot of curse words underneath my helmet," he said. "They try to make it as comfortable as they can, but when there's rain coming down, it's not easy."

Oh, yeah—did we mention that in one of Episode II's most breathtaking new action sequences, Jango Fett does battle amid a powerful rainstorm? "I had a lot of fight scenes in the rain, and at first I was quite willing to do it," Morrison said. "But after a day or two, I let the stunt guy have his turn."

For Fett's fighting, Morrison said he bowed to the wisdom of stunt coordinator Nick Gillard. "I just let Nick do all that stuff, and I did as I was told," he said. "They've already done their homework, and they know what they want to achieve in those particular fight scenes. It's all quite cleverly choreographed, and quite controlled. We actors can't get too carried away with it. Let the other actor/people do their jobs as well."

Just as choreographed, and no less precise, were scenes that called on Morrison to work alone on a set surrounded by nothing but green screen, with digital environments and characters to be added later. Still, he said, "The principle's the same—lights, camera, action—no difference. It's just that every now and then you've got to look up and pretend somebody's there."

While it was routine on the Episode II set for actors who were voicing computer-generated characters to be on the set for reference shots and to rehearse with the other actors, Morrison said it was difficult to play Jango seriously when his *Once Were Warriors* co-star Rena Owen showed up to stand in for her CG character, Taun We.

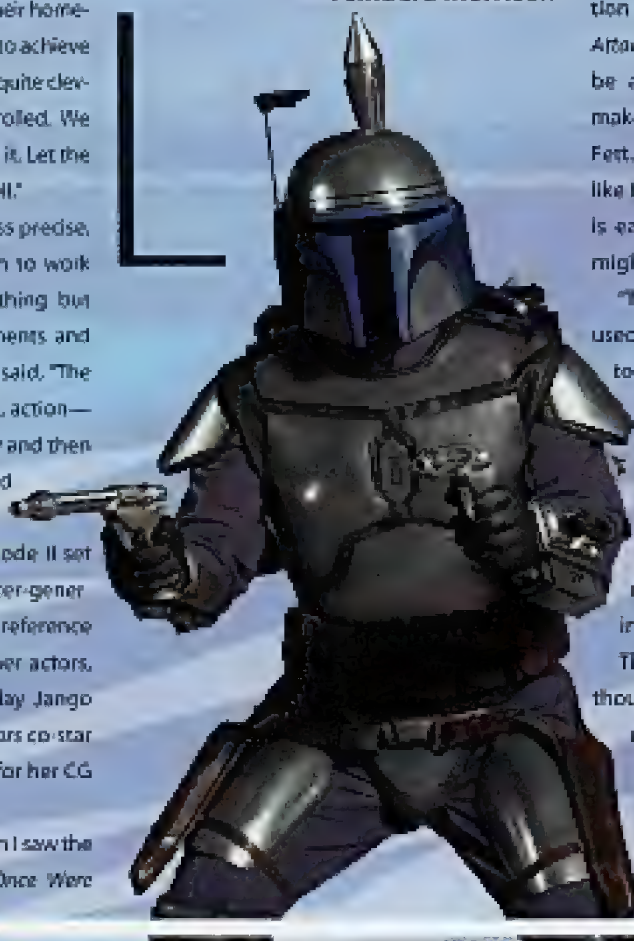
"It was a little bit weird for me when I saw the woman who played my wife in *Once Were*

Warriors, Rena Owen, wearing a helmet and something like a cardboard cut-out on her head, too," he said with a laugh. "We do this scene with Obi-Wan Kenobi, and she's in there as well with this ridiculous thing on her head. We tried to keep ourselves from laughing too much."

He's not worried about being replaced by a synthesian: "I fail to see how they can make that thing we call *hi!*—that thing that makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand up.

"I remember in the old days getting a little buzz because I could hear the film run through the camera. That noise was my buzz."

—Temuera Morrison



It's those feelings and emotions that come from within a human soul. Once they start computer-generating that, I'll be in trouble!"

The actor uses as an example his onscreen confrontation with Samuel L. Jackson's Jedi hero Mace Windu. "I had a couple of scenes with Samuel," he said. "That was lovely, because I've always respected his work. He's very focused, and there's a good kind of stillness about him, a powerful presence. He's quite still in his acting as well. It was nice to come eyeball-to-eyeball with Samuel L. Jackson. That's what we actors enjoy—that vibe that happens between us, which is caused by that internal energy."

"It's that sense of giving and feeding for those few small moments. I remember in the old days getting a little buzz because I could hear the film run through the camera. That noise was my buzz. When I hear that noise, it's like when you're on stage and you can feel the crowd, or when you're doing a beautiful monologue and everybody is hanging on every word—when that camera's rolling, that's the audience applauding."

There's no film rolling in the high-definition digital video cameras used to shoot *Attack of the Clones*, but Fett fans will surely be applauding next year when Morrison makes his first appearance onscreen as Jango Fett. Carrying the legacy of a classic character like Boba Fett can be daunting, but Morrison is eager to take on the challenge—and he might soon solicit some expert advice.

"The funny thing is," he said, "the guy who used to play Boba Fett, Jeremy Bulloch, goes to one of my favorite restaurants in L.A. all the time, and every time I turn up there, they go, 'Oh, your son was just in here'—which is funny because he's about 20 years older than me, I'm going to tell the guys at the restaurant to tell me when he's coming back, and I'll come in. I need to meet my son, Boba Fett!"

The future of the Fett phenomenon, though, is firmly in the hands of Episode III's mysterious menace, Temuera Morrison. "I feel like Jango Fett is a little cooler than Boba Fett," the actor said. Soon, audiences hungry for more Fett will finally get to see for themselves. ☺

DANIEL LOGAN:

LOGAN

Fourteen-year-old New Zealand Newcomer Daniel Logan takes on the role of Boba Fett in *Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones*.

If you think that getting to play Boba Fett in the new *Star Wars* movie at the age of 14 would be nothing but non-stop fun and excitement, you might change your mind if you had to do what young Daniel Logan has been doing for these past two June days, alone in a sea of green-screen.

No, these aren't the days he gets to run around, or jump in a starship cockpit, or fire off a few blasts from a laser gun. Rather, these are the days when, under the supervision of Episode II visual effects supervisor Pablo Helman and a crew from Industrial Light & Magic, Logan is working his way through a seemingly never-ending series of 82 different shots, all for an effects sequence involving precision camera movements, multiple takes, and the tedious pace that can go into producing something that ultimately ends up lasting just an instant on screen.

S RUN



BIRTH OF THE BOUNTY HUNTER

The young Boba Fett gives indication that he will fully fill his father's shoes. Photo by Sue Adler



"I had to make up my own stuff," Logan told *Star Wars Insider* after he finished filming the sequence. "I prefer to make it up. I'm fine being told what to do, like they were telling me to put on my helmet or look at the screen. They show me the animatic before I go. But imagining makes me open up my mind, instead of trying to concentrate on what they've been telling me. It makes me relaxed to do it myself. It's

easy—imagine, activate. I could feel my fingers twitching, picturing what I was going to do."

Still, Daniel is only human, and the demands of the sequence would wear anyone out. "In the beginning," he said, "I really liked it, but as it got on, I got restless. It's fun, but it's a lot of work. It's really funny because when you see it in the movie, it's going to be on for like four seconds—and I did it for two days!"

Not that there aren't fringe benefits to being Boba Fett. "The best thing about it," he said, "is I got to drive those golf buggies [on the Fox Studios Australia lot]. I was driving everyone around. I was like the chauffeur—it was so fun!"

It's only after talking to Logan that it becomes obvious how huge an exercise in self-control it was for him to concentrate so hard on

those B2 shots. He's a bundle of energy with a ready laugh and an easy smile, a kid just as at home riding his bike as he is holding the controller of his PlayStation. It was an open, positive attitude that helped him earn the esteem of actor Temuera Morrison, who plays Boba Fett's father, Jango Fett, in Episode II.

"He's a sweet, lovely boy," Morrison said of his co-star. "We had fun together. He's very energetic and very humorous. He just says whatever comes out of his mouth. He sees Christopher Lee, and he goes, 'Oh, I've seen you before! Yeah, I've seen you in a couple of movies! What were they called again?' Then Samuel Jackson turns up, and he goes, 'Yeah, yeah, I've seen you, too!' He just tells it how it is. He was good to work with, too—quite disciplined in the end."

Logan was especially excited to meet Morrison, who's a major movie star in New Zealand, where Daniel lives with his mother, brother, and two sisters (a third sister is

"I've said, 'I play a baby Ewok.' And people actually believe me! It's the funniest thing—I tell them, 'You have to promise not to tell anyone.'"

—Daniel Logan

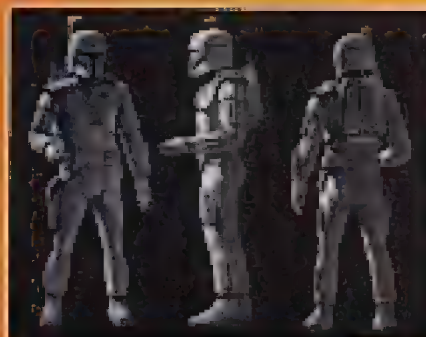
married and has given Daniel a niece and two nephews). "I always wanted to meet that guy," he said. "When they said 'Tem Morrison is going to be acting as your dad,' I said, 'Can I meet him?! Is he here?!'"

Working with Morrison turned out to be helpful for proud New Zealander, and equally proud Maori, Logan. "It was a lot easier that he was Maori," he said. "I could understand what he was saying in Maori. I really like that guy. He kept calling me 'son.'"

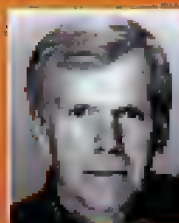
Logan also bonded with actor Ewan McGregor. "I always think about Ewan," he said. "It was so fun with him—we always knocked around on the set, and it always took at least three takes. He was my best friend on the set. But there were lots of people—everyone on *Star Wars* is my friend!"

The friendliness on the set no doubt made things easier for the then 13-year-old, whose biggest credit prior to *Star Wars* was a 1999 episode of *Hercules: The Legendary Journeys*. "I

1978: READY! FETT! GO!—A bounty hunter is born when artist Joe Johnston (who recently directed *Jurassic Park III*) sketches the final design of Boba Fett for *The Empire Strikes Back*, based on preliminary drawings by himself and Ralph McQuarrie. Johnston is also Fett's first fan: he's so enamored of the character's design that he paints Fett's armor and helmet himself.



1978: CARTOON DEBUT—Boba Fett makes his first appearance in an animated short made for 1978's *Star Wars Holiday Special*. In the cartoon, double-crossing Fett poses as a good guy and nearly convinces Luke to reveal the location of the hidden Rebel base. He escapes via jet backpack after C-3PO reveals him as "Darth Vader's right-hand man."



RAYDON

Wingreen, later known as Harry the Bartender on TV's *AD in the Family*, added Fett's distinctively gravelly voice in a recording studio in Los Angeles. (Both actors were interviewed in *Insider #49*'s "Tail of the Bounty Hunters" feature.)

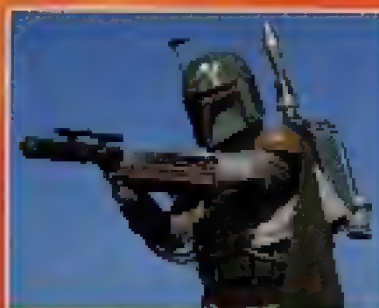


WINGREEN



1979: IT FIGURES—Still yet to appear on screen in a *Star Wars* movie, Boba Fett is selected as the sneak preview mail-away action figure for *The Empire Strikes Back*. The unexplained (but ultra-cool-looking) new character didn't only pique fans' interest in *Empire*; it was also the first step in building Boba Fett's reputation as a rare and intriguing enigma.

1980: IT TAKES TWO TO JANGO—A pair of actors on two different continents combined efforts to take Boba Fett to the big screen. In 1980's *The Empire Strikes Back*, Jeremy Bulloch donned the soon-to-be legendary costume and brought Boba to life on the London set of *Empire*. Jason



1983: RETURN OF THE FETT!—Bulloch was back for *Return of the Jedi*, just in time for Fett to meet his ignoble fate in the Sarlacc pit. While his dumsy demise disappointed admirers of his unusual skills, it was still more time than any of the other bounty hunters from *Empire* got in *Jedi*—I don't remember seeing Zuckuss hanging around Jabba's palace, do you? (Dengar and Bork got invitations... —Ed.)

was a demon," he said. "I was pretty bad. You should have seen it—they had an effect where first I was this little boy and the next thing my face just turned into a monster's. It was pretty cool."

The Auckland native started acting when he was 11 years old, after local children's rugby teams were scouted for a TV commercial. "They were putting down the top kids from the team, and I was one of the best. They put me down with four of my teammates, and I got the part. I played a little boy who gets knocked into the mud by [Auckland rugby star] Michael Jones."

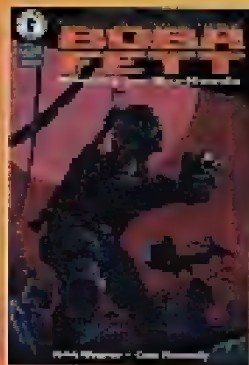
The break led to more commercials and a few TV appearances, including a 1992 episode of the Temuera Morrison-starring soap opera *Shortland Street*. Logan also starred in the short film *Falling Sparrows* and provided a voice on the animated series *Tamara*.

At the top of this brand new resume will soon reside *Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the*



Daniel Logan listens intently as George Lucas spells out exactly what he wants him to do in the next scene. Photo by Lisa Tomasetti.

THE RISE OF BOBA FETT'S STEADY RISE FROM CONCEPT ART TO CULT ANTI-HERO



1995: BOBA FETT SUPERSTAR—The writers and artists behind *Star Wars* comic books and newspaper strips began incorporating Boba Fett into printed *Star Wars* stories almost immediately after his big screen debut, but the character reached a milestone when he starred in the 1995 Dark Horse one-shot *Boba Fett*. Four years later, the bounty hunter again took the spotlight in a four-issue series from Dark Horse, *Boba Fett: Enemy of the Empire*.



1996: NO LONGER UNDER THE RADAR—*Star Wars Insider* #30 takes note of the rising tide of Fett-mania in a special article, "Boba Fett: From Obscure Villain to Culture Icon." With more people becoming aware of him, Boba Fett's appeal as a little-known character only worshipped by hard-core fans was being eclipsed by his growing stardom. Pretty soon, he'd no longer be considered all that obscure.



1997: SPECIAL ADDITION—In a bow to his growing stature, Boba Fett (played by LTM's Mark Rolston) is digitally inserted into the *Special Edition* of the original 1977 *Star Wars* film for a brief cameo, making him one of the few supporting characters to appear in all three installments of the classic trilogy. He also pops up romancing some alien babes in newly shot footage for the *Return of the Jedi* *Special Edition*, this time played by ILM's Don Biss and Nelson Hall.

1999: BRINGING BACK BOBA—Producer Rick McCallum announces that Boba Fett will definitely appear in *Episode II* of the *Star Wars* saga. Fans around the world greet the news with a collective shriek of delight.

2002: BOBA FETT AND JANGO FETT IN STAR WARS: EPISODE II ATTACK OF THE CLONES—Need we say more?

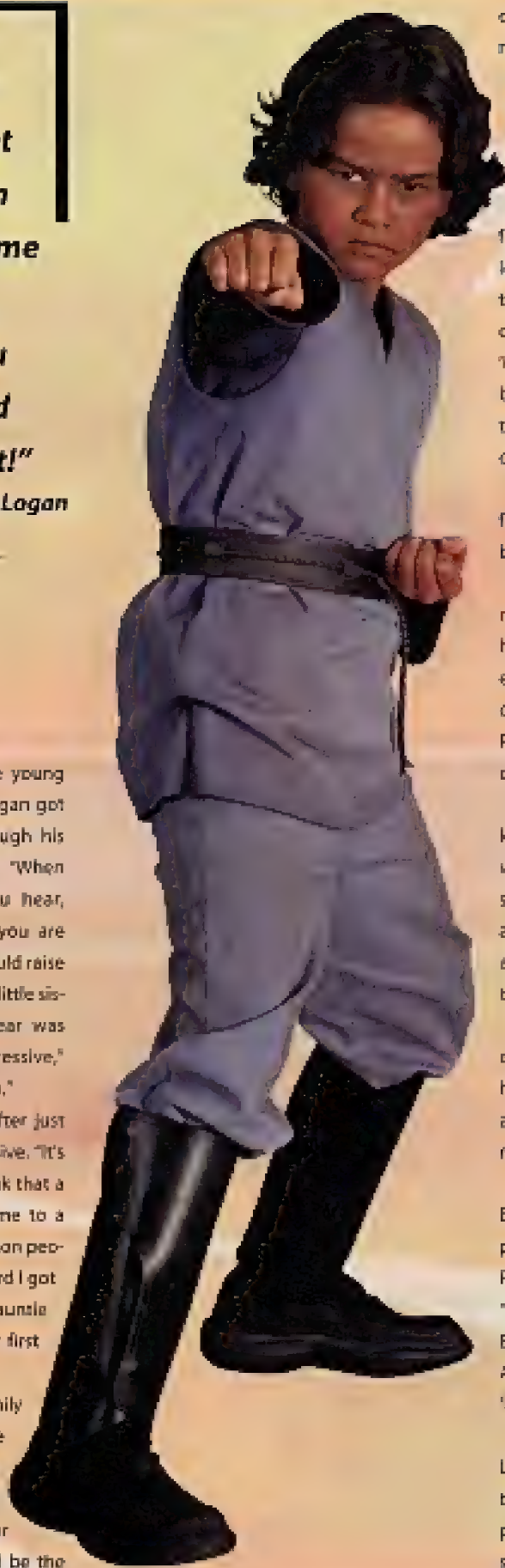
"What scares me the most is that if I do get big-headed, my mom said she would take me out of the business instantly—and if you knew my mom, you'd know she would do it!"

—Daniel Logan

Clones, and the coveted role of the young Boba Fett. Before this, the closest Logan got to the Star Wars universe was through his automated Darth Vader coin bank. "When you put a coin in," he said, "you hear, 'Impressive, most impressive—but you are not a Jedi yet,' and the lightsaber would raise and go across—it was quite cool. My little sister liked it—all you could ever hear was 'impressive, most impressive, impressive,' because she kept pushing the button."

Winning the part of Boba Fett after just one audition was also pretty impressive. "It's quite strange because you don't think that a big country like America would come to a small place like New Zealand to audition people," Logan said, adding, "When I heard I got the part, I was about to cry. My auntie really loves Star Wars, and I told her first that I got the part. She cried."

But while Logan got to tell his family and friends that he was cast in Episode II, the confidential nature of the movie's story meant that nobody other than Daniel and his mother could know that Daniel's face would be the



one finally revealed under the mask of the mysterious Boba Fett.

"Not even my brother knows who I'm playing," Logan said. "It's hard, especially with my family. Kids at school ask who I'm playing, and I get angry, because they don't only ask me once—they ask me three or four times. All I can say is, 'I'm not going to lose my job over you.'" The constant questions can have humorous results when Daniel decides to just make something up. "I've said, 'I play a baby Ewok!' And people actually believe me! It's the funniest thing—I tell them, 'You have to promise not to tell anyone!' I've also said I play baby Chewbacca."

But now, with the release of Episode II finally closing in, Logan is free to talk about being Boba Fett—and he's got a lot to say.

"George said that even though he was a mysterious person, heaps of people knew him," Logan said of his bounty-hunting alter ego. "He said, 'You know how Boba Fett falls down that hole and they think he's dead? People don't think he's dead, they think he's coming back. They can't let him go.'"

After spending some time getting to know Boba Fett firsthand, Logan can see why. "He's a strong guy," he said. "He always sticks up for himself. I think he didn't have anything against the Jedi, and he didn't have anything against the bad guys. He was just in the middle."

The appeal of the character can also be explained more simply, he said: "It's because he gets to fight the Jedi, and he's so strong and mighty, and the way he's set up—his helmet—he's got all those things!"

Of course, in Episode II, it's Jango, not Boba, who wears that cool costume. "I think people are going to be attracted to Jango Fett because of Boba Fett," Daniel said. "They're probably going to think Jango Fett is Boba Fett. They'll be like, 'Yeah! Boba Fett!' And then this little guy comes in. They'll say, 'Hey, who's that? Did Boba Fett have a son?'"

No, but Boba Fett does have a dad, and Logan worked hard to make clear how close the two are, despite the father's nefarious proclivities. "He's always with his dad," Daniel said. "He does things with his dad, lives with

his dad, loves his dad, and is always there for his dad. Jango Fett is his idol."

The young actor has also done his thinking about what makes the *Star Wars* universe tick. "Star Wars is interesting. There's a dark side and a light side, and those two always combine and fight. I think people like the fighting scenes, and they like seeing new characters come up."

"George has a crazy imagination, and I like when he just gets his mind flowing and creates whatever he wants. It's so amazing how he could come up with lightsabers—who would ever think of lightsabers, and then double-sided lightsabers? That's what I find amazing. The things that attracted me are the characters, their weapons, and their fighting."

That's in keeping with Daniel's movie-watching ethos. "I like action movies where you can see them punching and kicking," he said. "My favorite actor is probably Van Damme or Bruce Lee."

But Logan is firmly rooted in the *Star Wars* universe now, at a safe distance from the Muslims from Brussels. In fact, where once he played with his Darth Vader coin bank, Daniel Logan is sure to see himself pop up on *Star Wars* merchandise soon. "It would be funny if I was playing my own video game, killing myself," he mused, adding that if he ever gets an action figure with his likeness, "I'll probably go straight to the mirror—'Let's see, it's got the right-shaped nose.'"

The discussion of new Boba Fett merchandise is enough to send Logan on another flight of fancy, imagining a future conversation with a friend: "It'll be like, 'I was just playing with you last night.' I'll say, 'Eh? I wasn't over at your house.' And he'll say, 'Your action figure!'"

The excitement even extends to the publication you're reading right now. "They told me I'm going to be in a magazine, and then scan me for a toy," he said, "and I was like, 'Sweet! I'm going to be in a magazine and be a toy!'"

But lest you think all this attention is going to go the boy's head, Logan said he has strong incentive to keep himself away from the attitudes that can be all too common for child actors. "I never think like that," he said, "What scares me the most is that if I

do get big-headed, my mom said she would take me out of the business instantly—and if you knew my mom, you'd know she would. So there's your first Boba Fett secret revealed—the one person the deadly

bounty hunter fears the most is his mother. But everyone else, watch out: Daniel Logan is coming in for the attack as Boba Fett in *Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones*, and he means business. 🍌

Just a normal 12-year-old . . . bounty hunter hanging around the set on his day off, Daniel Logan's T-shirts show who his heroes are. Photo by Giles Westley.



BUT BIRTH OF THE BOUNTY HUNTER



DOWN UNDER

AUSTRALIAN ACTRESS **LEEANNA WALSMAN**

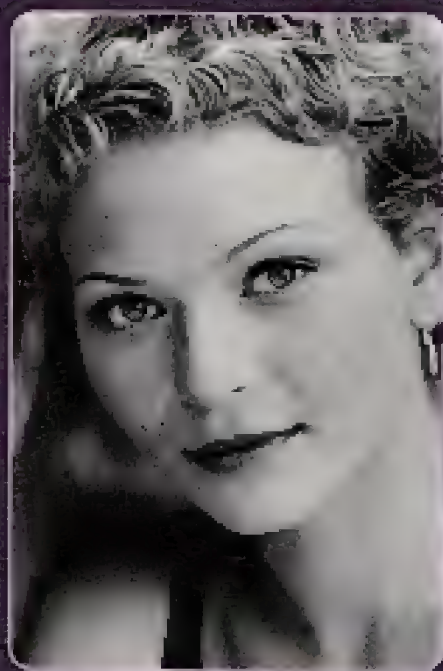
IN STAR WARS: EPISODE I

BY **MICHAEL G. RYAN**

A YEAR AFTER finishing work on a Fox Studios Australia soundstage, Australian-born actress Leeanna Walsman is preparing for a visit to Industrial Light & Magic in California. There she'll do a little follow-up work for her scenes in *Star Wars: Episode II Attack of the Clones*, in which she plays bounty hunter Zam Wesell, who mixes it up with Obi-Wan Kenobi and his apprentice, Anakin Skywalker. That subsequent experience continues to amaze her long after her time on the film's set concluded. *Star Wars Insider* recently called Walsman at her home in Australia, where the seventeen-hour time difference made an evening interview in Seattle a mid-morning break for Walsman.

"It's so big," she says of the galaxy in which she plays a character that she refers to simply as "a baddie." "Everybody knows about the film. It's not like I've said, 'I'm doing this little film over here.' Instead, I say, 'I'm doing *Star Wars*,' and people are stunned. They can't believe it. Everyone already knows all about that universe, and everyone appreciates it."

Walsman joins an elite group of actors and actresses who've brought nefarious characters to life in the *Star Wars* galaxy, villains like Darth Vader, Darth Maul, and Boba Fett.



WORLD

ARMS HERSELF TO PLAY A BOUNTY HUNTER
ATTACK OF THE CLONES



HUNTING FOR THE PERFECT PART

"All my training up to now has been practical," Walsman says, reflecting on the five years preceding her role in *Star Wars*. "Working. That's where I learned my craft."

Beginning in a small drama troupe in high school, she began to shift her focus from being in entertainment in general ("I thought I wanted to be in a cabaret," the twenty-one-year-old recalls) to acting in particular. As a child, she was particularly inspired by the old black-and-white movies she saw on the big screen.

"I used to have this little old English lady who looked after me named Mrs. Hollyhead—she was so cute!—and every Saturday, she'd take me to the midday movies," Walsman remembers. "All the old classics, the old Bing Crosby or Greta Garbo films. The singing, the dancing, the beautiful women . . . I used to think, 'I want to

DOWN UNDERWORLD.....

ZAM WESELL



"What do you mean, 'exact change only'?" Bounty hunter Zam Wesell (Leeanna Walsman) takes aim from the cockpit of her speeder. Photo by Lisa Tomasetti.

be just like them when I grow up." I fell in love with the movies then."

In 1996, Walsman took on her first movie role in an Australian film called *Blackrock*, only to find much of her part on the cutting room floor. "When the film came out, a lot of us weren't in it as much as we were supposed to be," she laughs. But the experience not only introduced her to other young actors and actresses with whom she's still friends today, it also led her to an agent via *Blackrock*'s director Steven Vidler, an actor himself. "It was an amazing experience that let me do so much more work," she says.

Since then, Walsman has moved easily among film, television, and stage roles, though she says she's not drawn to any particular kind of part. "Actually, they seem to draw them-

selves to me," she says. "A lot of baddies. Strong characters. I think... or else completely emotionally unstable. I don't know which." And in the aftermath of her *Star Wars* experience, she finds herself leaning toward film over other media. "You can see the outcome with film," she notes. "You see a collaboration of ideas all put together. And when you watch it all put together, it's even more different than it was when you were doing it in the first place. It's a whole other world that reaches thousands, even millions, of people. And it's also permanent, like a library. Films can be kept and watched again and again."

Despite her preference for film, Walsman says she owes a debt to theater, as her participation in *Le Dispute*, a dark production by 16th-century French playwright Marivaux,

THE PRICE OF FAITH I'VE GOT TO HAVE A LITTLE FIGURINE



"I've got to have a little figurine of me!" Leeanna Walsman says, thinking ahead to when action figures of her character Zam Wesell might appear in toy stores around the world. "Imagine that—a figurine of me! I love *Star Wars*! This has all been so good for me and for the acting community in Australia."

As the film gets closer to release, Zam Wesell will pop up in comics and novelizations. And as fans learn more about the mysterious bounty

LEEANNA WALSMAN



opened up a door to a galaxy far, far away. "Theater is incredible," she says. "I get fed up with it at times because it's so exhausting, such hard work, but when I don't do it, I miss it. My best work has most definitely been onstage, and I've been able to play a lot of roles in theater that I haven't yet played in film or on television. It's really beautiful when somebody comes up to you who's never seen theater before, and they tell you they've been changed by it. You perform right in front of them; you can sometimes even hear what they're saying about your

performance, right there. It's so personal."

To Dispute, directed by Benedict Andrews (with whom Walsman has worked many times in the past, and who is currently directing her in *Old Masters* for the Sydney Theatre Company), stands as Walsman's favorite role prior to her work as a bounty hunter. "The play's about a prince and his princess who have an argument about which sex was the first to be unfaithful. So this man goes out and gets four babies—two girls, two boys—and puts each of them in isolation to conduct an experiment later on. So, twenty years later,

ME

OF ME!

hunter, Leeanna Walsman might find herself more and more in the spotlights. Much of the ripple effect of being in such a huge film hasn't quite registered on her yet, as she contemplates attending a premiere of the film ("I'll probably bring my family," she says, "but it all seems so far away"), what it might be like to meet fans at conventions, or what sorts of interviews she might be invited to do in the future. "I thought people wouldn't even notice me," she says, "but everyone keeps telling me that even the small characters still get attention. I suppose if I keep getting interviewed, I'd better come up with better [lots of] things to say!"



Fennec Shand has the coolest accessories and outfit since Boba Fett.
Photo by Sue Heller

ZAM WESSELL

DOWN UNDERWORLD.....

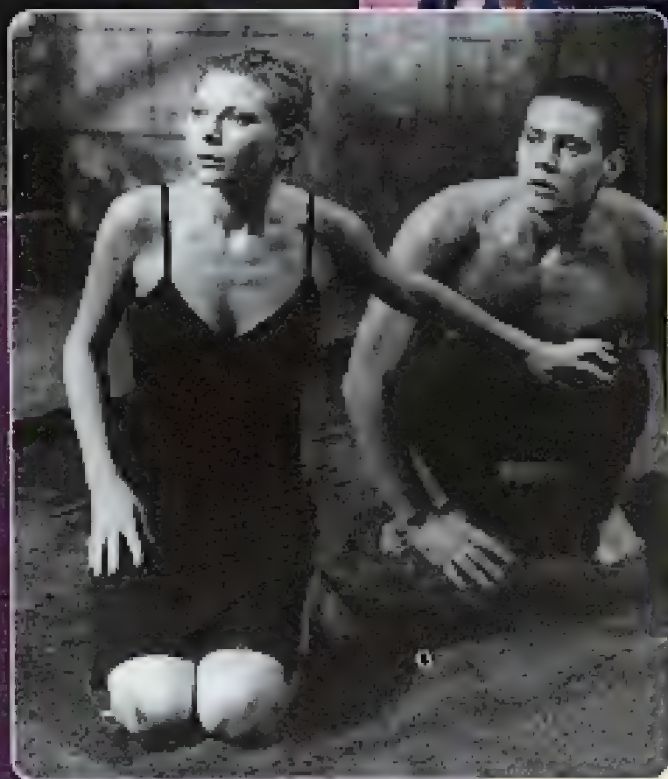
ZAM WESELI



Leonardo and costar Nathan Page in the production of *Up Dispute* at the Sydney Theatre Company. Photos by Tracey Schrems

his son is having the same argument with his princess, and he says, 'Well, my father did this twenty years ago. Why don't we unleash them and see what happens?' So they release them, and it's very voyeuristic—the prince and princess are staring down at them, the audience is staring in at them, and they're almost like caged animals."

The four caged people—including Walsman's character, Egle—are released into a dirty, zoo-like enclosure for observation. The entire stage is covered with dirt, a stream runs across it, and monkey bars hang overhead. The four subjects of "the dispute" are amazed by what they encounter here for the very first time: each other. Jealousy, vanity, and numerous other previously suppressed



emotions come boiling out of the four characters, who behave like animals as they climb the monkey bars, dive down slippery slides amid the dirt and water, and tumble

[BELOW] Leonardo enjoyed her part as a fun-loving character in *Love Is a Four Letter Word*. Photo: Leeu Tees of SAC Te Photography.



LEEANNA WALSMAN

over one another, exploring their new world.

"Robin Gurland, who was casting *Star Wars* in Sydney at the time, came to see the play," Walsman says. Gurland had come to see Rose Byrne, who played the second female lead in *La Dispute* and who was ultimately cast as a handmaiden in Episode II. What Gurland saw in Leeanna led to her offer to do *Star Wars*.

While the play brought about a happy turn of events for Walsman personally, *La Dispute* itself does not end happily. "It was terrible," she admits. "It all gets out of control. We were all like animals. The prince and princess end up stopping the experiment. The play's an open-ended thing, and the director is quite dark. So, we all got shot."

"The costume and weaponry really help make the character. You look at yourself in the mirror, and you say, 'This is how I'm going to be.'"

—Leeana Walsman

TRIP TO BOUNTIFUL

Her first day on the set, bounty hunter Zam Wesell came face-to-face with Obi-Wan Kenobi.

"I couldn't believe I was working with Ewan McGregor," Walsman says. "I was so excited to meet him, and I was so nervous! I didn't even know what accent to use on screen. In fact, I don't even know now what accent I ended up using! I didn't know if I was doing things right—honestly, the first line on the first day is the scariest moment in any production, and this was a big production."

On a set surrounded by blue screen, Walsman found out just how physical her role was to be as she worked with Obi-Wan and

ZAM WESELL

Zam Wesell takes aim in attack of the Clones. Photo by Sue Ryder.

DOWN UNDERWORLD.....

ZAM WELSMAN



Zam's headgear features a set of specially equipped binoculars that enable her to hone in on her prey. Photo by Sue Adler.

Anakin Skywalker (Hayden Christensen). The scenes were demanding, but Welsman was pleased with the level of action in her part. Getting into character, however, was a little more challenging.

"It's all about the costume," she says, noting that getting fixed up with outfits and weaponry took up plenty of time. In fact, various parts of her leather-and-Lycra costume, like the armor, had different crewmembers attending them, as did her guns. "I wear a helmet, but I have my own face most of the time. I briefly wear a veil so I can be anonymous, but it flies off at some point. That costume and the weaponry really help make the character. You look at yourself in the mirror, and you say, 'This is how I'm going to be.' And then it's all

about dodging light sabers, flying spacecraft, running down streets. It was all completely different than anything else I'd ever done."

Despite her grueling schedule at the time—she often needed to be on the set at 5 A.M. for costume fittings, and in the evenings she continued to perform on stage in *La Dispute*—Welsman feels the 10 days she spent working on *Star Wars* were some of the best of her career thus far. "The set was so relaxed. I felt really happy and had so much fun. It seemed like a whole lot of people just doing amazing work. The spacecraft, the outfits, the weaponry—it's all astonishing. It was a calm, wonderful set to be on."

She attributes much of that comfortable working atmosphere to the demeanor of

George Lucas himself. "He was very laid back," she remembers. "He never seemed to lose it. Some people can get so stressed in this business, but he was so in control all the time."

Still, she concedes that reading only her own scenes and part (instead of the entire script) and therefore acting "in the moment" was a little unnerving and disconcerting. "In some scenes, I don't even know where I am," she admits. "It'll all be put together later on. And only being there for 10 days, it's scary to not know exactly where you are in the bigger scheme of things. I don't even know what it's going to look like in the end!"

Even after her scenes, a couple of chases, and a few of lines of dialogue were over, Welsman still found herself affected by her

DOWN UNDERWORLD.....

experience. "That something so big was so relaxed really affected me," she says. "I run into people now, and they say, 'Hey, I worked on your spaceship!' The Australian acting community is so small that we all know each other or know of each other. It's great. [There were] some very big stars are in this film, yet there was no 'star behavior' from anyone. Everyone was patient and pleasant and great to work with. They were wonderful."

In the end, however, there are some drawbacks to being a bounty hunter and not a Jedi in the Star Wars galaxy.

"I didn't get to play with a lightsaber," Walsman admits. "But I'll tell you: I had a great gun. I was very pleased with my weaponry."

SETTING HER SIGHTS ON THE FUTURE

Along with millions of others, Walsman now waits for *Attack of the Clones* to hit the big screen. Between now and then, she'll visit

"I'd love to do more film, maybe even the lead. You can't really generalize a role, but I'd like to take on roles that are high energy, sexy, exciting, fun-loving characters. I love Audrey Hepburn's roles, for example."

—Leeana Walsman
bounty hunter Zam Wesell

California, and she'll brace herself for the reaction of fans worldwide—Walsman wonders whether Zam Wesell will have even a fraction of the popularity of the infamous Darth Maul or Boba Fett.

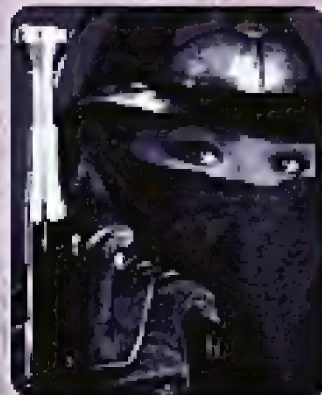
"I had no idea how big it was at the time," she says. "Honestly, I didn't even know what a bounty hunter was when they offered me the role. But I didn't want to admit that and look stupid, of course. So now I can't believe that I already have people sending me fan mail. I think that's surreal! Then there are these Internet sites where people are already talking about me and about my character. I think it's phenomenal. I hope everyone likes me."

She'll continue to act on stage in *Old Masters* until December. After that, she has her eye on Hollywood. "I think *Old Masters* is going to be the most difficult role I've done to date," she says. "Some of the best actors in Australia are in this. I'm the youngest person on the stage, and I'm so excited to be working with them. But I'd love to work in Hollywood. I went to the states shortly after finishing *Star Wars*, and I got myself an agent and a manager over there. There are so many scripts to read—it's amazing! It focuses you. If you want to be an actress, you have to be everywhere, not just in Australia. You realize how much of a business it is when you visit Hollywood. They send me scripts, and I audition sometimes by sending a video back to the States. Still, it's much nicer to be there and do it face to face."

If her career advances as she hopes it will, Leeana Walsman could be working on another film, possibly a Hollywood production, by the time Episode II opens in the summer of 2002. Given the fan reaction to previous bounty hunters from the saga, she could easily find herself in the spotlight as her name and face become known to millions of Star Wars fans all over the world. For now, Leeana won't let herself get too excited about that possibility. "I still don't think it's ever going to happen," she says. "But who knows what'll happen? Ask me again in a year!" ☺

GUISES AND DISGUISES

For fans who would like to know more about the work of the bounty hunter behind the veil, Leeana Walsman has already compiled an impressive résumé in Australian film, television, and theater.



2001: *South West 101* (TV), *Beastmaster* (TV), *Farscape* (TV), *Old Masters* (theater)

2000: *Love is a Four-Letter Word* (TV), *La Dispute* (theater), *The Recruit* (theater)

1999: *Thunderstone* (TV), *Closer* (theater)

1998: *Looking for Allbrandt* (film), *Heartbreak High* (TV), *Chasing the Dragon* (theater)

1997: *Wildside* (TV), *Murder Call* (TV), *Big Sky* (TV), *Spellbinder II* (TV)

1996: *Blackrock* (film)



WHO'S WHO IN THE NEW JEDI ORDER

BY DANIEL WALLACE SPECIAL THANKS TO ENRIQUE GUERRERO

WARNING! This article contains significant spoilers for the New Jedi Order series through the most recent novel, Troy Denning's *Star By Star*. Proceed with caution if you don't want to know important plot points.

In our galaxy, The New Jedi Order is an epic series of *Star Wars* novels published by Del Rey and LucasBooks. Currently unfolding at a bookstore near you, the episodic saga chronicles the invasion of the Yuuzhan Vong, an extra-galactic alien species bent on sacrificial genocide. Kicking off with a bang in 1999's *Vector Prime* (which detailed the death of Chewbacca), The New Jedi Order will encompass approximately twenty novels before its wrap-up in 2003.

In the galaxy far, far away, the New Jedi Order is an attempt by Luke Skywalker to rekindle the embers of a proud tradition whose "fire has gone out of the universe." During the days of the Old Republic, Yoda and Mace Windu oversaw a legion of Jedi Knights and Masters ten thousand strong. This "Old Jedi Order" was both a spiritual discipline and a de facto police force, settling galactic disputes with flashing lightsabers in the manner of frontier marshals in the Old West.

Ultimately, these ten thousand Jedi fell to the machinations of just two Sith. Emperor Palpatine hunted the seemingly invincible order to extinction. After many dark years of Imperial rule, Darth Vader killed the Emperor, was redeemed, and became one with the Force. Luke Skywalker then set out to restore the vanished institution to a galaxy hungering for justice. That's quite a burden for a twenty-something ex-farmer, but it wasn't called *Return of the Jedi* for nothing.

The New Jedi Order Saga

Vector Prime, R. A. Salvatore

Dark Tide I: Onslaught, Michael A. Stackpole

Dark Tide II: Ruin, Michael A. Stackpole

Agents of Chaos I: Hero's Trial, James Luceno

Agents of Chaos II: Jedi Eclipse, James Luceno

Balance Point, Kathy Tyers

Edge of Victory I: Conquest, Greg Keyes

Edge of Victory II: Rebirth, Greg Keyes

Star By Star, Troy Denning

Dark Journey, Elaine Cunningham (February 2002)

ILLUSTRATED BY RUSSELL WALKS & DAN VEESENMEYER

The Academy

Seven years after the Emperor's defeat at Endor, Luke founded a Jedi training academy on the jungle moon Yavin 4. Yoda had once told him, "when I am gone, the last of the Jedi will you be," and Luke wasn't about to accept that as his epitaph. His first batch of students numbered one dozen.

After his training from Ben Kenobi and Yoda, Luke chose not to follow the traditional path of the Jedi but chose his own course in this time of crisis. Instead of strict Master/Padawan pairings, Luke instructed large classes of students. Upon graduation to Knighthood, these Jedi could then teach larger classes of incoming students. This exponential method allowed the Jedi ranks to swell in just fourteen years—though several failed trainees fell to the dark side. By the time of the Yuuzhan Vong invasion, Luke Skywalker's New Jedi Order consisted of approximately one hundred Knights and Masters (and twenty-odd Jedi children).

"when I am gone, the last of the Jedi will you be," —YODA

The Invasion

The Yuuzhan Vong, a species of conquerors who seem to exist outside the Force, invaded the galaxy twenty-one years after the death of the Emperor. New Republic technology proved ineffectual against their biological war-creatures, and hundreds of worlds capitulated as the enemy cut a wide path through the civilized star systems.

The alien onslaught caused a philosophical split in the Jedi ranks, as hotheads preached "fight fire with fire" while Master Skywalker sought a non-aggressive solution that would preserve the greatest number of lives. The Yuuzhan Vong complicated matters by offering to halt their invasion on the condition that the New Republic surrender its Jedi Knights. After enemy sympathizers of the so-called "Peace Brigade" led the Yuuzhan Vong to Yavin 4, the few lingering Jedi evacuated. Pursued by Jedi-hunting voxyn creatures, the members of the New Jedi Order have struggled to turn the tide of a war they seem to be losing.

So far more than a third of Luke Skywalker's New Jedi Order members have made personal appearances in the saga. Many of them have fallen in battle against the invaders. Others have been betrayed by the citizens they are sworn to protect, offered up to the Yuuzhan Vong in the hopes that the aliens will accept the Jedi sacrifice and leave the galaxy in peace. Unless Luke Skywalker can turn the tide of war, the New Jedi Order might well suffer the same fate as the old.



JEDI MASTERS

Luke Skywalker

Now in his forties, Luke Skywalker is no longer the farmboy who whined about going into Tosche Station to buy some power converters. He has brought freedom to the oppressed, toppled despotic tyrants, and single-handedly resurrected the formal belief systems sur-

rounding the Force. As head of the New Jedi Order, Luke Skywalker carries more weight on his shoulders than anyone in the galaxy. He has been married to ex-Imperial assassin Mara Jade for several years and the two of them recently welcomed their first child, Ben. Still carrying the green-bladed lightsaber he used in the climactic battle against Darth Vader, Luke is troubled by the impulsiveness of Master Kyp Durron and other members of the Order. He understands the temptations of the dark side better than anyone, but his warnings against anger, fear, and aggression often fall on deaf ears. Luke continues to try to win governmental approval for the establishment of a new Jedi Council, but the Yuuzhan Vong invasion has put those plans on hold.

Mara Jade Skywalker

First introduced in Timothy Zahn's *Heir to the Empire*, Mara Jade is one of the most popular characters in the Expanded Universe. (A poll in *Insider* #38 ranked her at 20th, the highest showing by a non-movie character.) A former Emperor's

Hand who performed covert missions for Palpatine, Mara now fights for the good guys alongside her husband Luke Skywalker. She typically carries Anakin Skywalker's blue-bladed lightsaber given to Luke by Obi-Wan Kenobi. At the onset of the Yuuzhan Vong invasion, Mara served as a Jedi mentor to Jaina Solo. Infected with a debilitating illness by an enemy agent, Mara struggled to keep the pathogen at bay, especially after she discovered her pregnancy. The illness is now in remission, and Mara is the mother of a son, Ben Skywalker. The baby has given Mara hope for the future and redoubled her determination to defeat the Yuuzhan Vong before there's nothing left to defend.



WHO'S WHO



Cilghal

A female Mon Calamari, Cilghal worked as an ambassador before becoming one of Luke Skywalker's first Jedi Academy students. Kind and soft-spoken, Master Cilghal is famous for her abilities as a healer. Readers might remember Cilghal from the Jedi Academy trilogy, in which she used the Force to cure Mon Mothma of a molecular poison. Cilghal used the same skills to ease Mara's pain when her immune system fought off a Yuuzhan Vong-induced illness. Cilghal's Jedi apprentice, a tiny Chadra-Fan named Tekli, made her first appearance in *Balance Point*.



Kyp Durren

Kyp is one of Luke's earliest students, introduced in Kevin J. Anderson's Jedi Academy trilogy when Luke was still trying to create a Jedi learning center with little experience. Kyp, only a teenager at the time, is now in his mid-30s, an older and (in his own eyes) wiser man. He has been with Master Skywalker from the beginning and believes that this gives him the authority to move the New Jedi Order into taking an aggressive, proactive stance against the alien invaders. Kyp's own experience in overcoming the

spiritual influence of a dead Sith Lord has led him to believe that Yoda's advice was wrong—you can start down the dark path without having it dominate your destiny. Kyp's philosophy has made him popular among the younger Jedi and could lead to a split in the Jedi ranks. Kyp leads a highly trained starfighter squadron ("Kyp's Dozen") and performs renegade military missions without the blessing of Luke Skywalker or the New Republic Defense Force. His apprentice, Mika Reglia, was the first Jedi to die at the hands of the Yuuzhan Vong.



Ikrit •

Yoda once told Luke "size matters not," and that was apparently Ikrit's motto as well. First appearing in the Junior Jedi Knights series for young readers, this tiny Kushibian resembled a white-furred bunny rabbit. Master Ikrit's history dated back more than four centuries to the heyday of the Old Republic (when Yoda himself was just a young five-hundred-year-old). Ikrit sacrificed himself in *Edge of Victory: A Conquest*, when he defended the Jedi Academy against the venal cowards of the collaborationist Peace Brigade.



Kenth Hamner

Kenth Hamner is one of only two Jedi Masters who were not introduced in a prior era of *Star Wars* literature. First appearing in *Agents of Chaos II: Jedi Eclipse*, Hamner is a retired colonel formerly from the New Republic Defense Force. As an ex-military man, Hamner is an invaluable link between the Jedi and the New Republic's soldiers, many of whom view the Force-wielding "magicians" as distractions or renegades. Luke Skywalker values Hamner's level head and his insight into matters of strategy.

Tresina Lobi

Like Colonel Hamner, Tresina Lobi is a recent addition to the *Star Wars* pantheon, first appearing in *Balance Point*. Her people, the Chev, are near-human species from Vinsoth historically oppressed by their hulking Chevin neighbors. Master Lobi was the first Chev to demonstrate Force-sensitivity. She trained the female human Thrynna Vae to Knighthood, only to learn of her apprentice's brutal death at the hands of enemy collaborators on Duro.



Kam Solusar

As a boy, Kam Solusar learned the Jedi way under his father Ranik, who died during the Jedi Purge. Kam fled the hunters and later fell under the dark influence of the reborn Emperor. Luke brought Kam back from the dark side, and their exploits were covered in the comic book series *Dark Empire II*. At the start of the New Jedi Order era, Solusar and his wife Tionne served as joint headmasters of the Jedi Academy on Yavin 4. When the Yuuzhan Vong menaced the jungle moon, Master Solusar evacuated the Jedi children just ahead of an enemy invasion force.



Streen

Already an old man when Luke Skywalker invited him to join the inaugural class of academy students, Streen is now the oldest human serving in the New Jedi Order. For most of his life Streen worked as a tibanna gas prospector on Bespin. Luke taught him to harness his Force aptitude to shut out the "noise" he felt while in the presence of other living beings. Though Master Streen has overseen the academy in the past, Kam Solusar currently holds that responsibility. Thus far, Streen has taken a limited role in slowing the Yuuzhan Vong invasion.

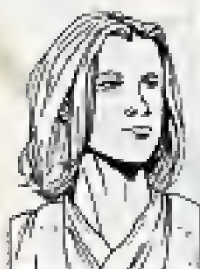


JEDI KNIGHTS

Daye Azur-Jamin

An older human Jedi Knight, Daye Azur-Jamin bears cyborg prosthetics to compensate for injuries suffered in the explosion of an armaments factory on Druckenwell. Daye made his first appearance in "Tintin on Trial," a Kathy Tyers short story from issue 4 of the now-defunct *Star Wars Adventure Journal* (reprinted in the collection *Tales from the Empire*). Tyers continued the adventures of Daye and his love Tintin Fatt in later *Adventure Journals* as well as *Tales of the Bounty Hunters*, so its only natural she brought both characters into the New Jedi Order era in her novel *Balance Point*. Daye, now married to Tintin, has a son who is also a Jedi. Though he appears only "off-camera" in *Balance Point*, Daye has been working to ascertain the damage wrought by the Yuuzhan Vong's attack on Nal Hutta, the Hutt homeworld.





Tam Azur-Jamin

Son of Daze Azur-Jamin and the non-Jedi Tinlan Fatt, Tam is a Jedi Knight in the tradition of his father. When Luke Skywalker lost contact with Daze during the older Jedi's reconnaissance mission to Nal Hutta, Tam headed off to investigate his father's disappearance.



Eryl Besa •

Introduced in *Star by Star*, this redheaded woman was born to a space racer and developed the Force ability to determine where she was in the galaxy at any given moment. Eryl worked with Ulahe Kore to secure a dead voxyn for dissection and later accompanied the Jedi taskforce sent behind enemy lines to Myrkr. En route to their destination she befriended fellow Jedi Knight Raynar Thul, but their budding friendship was cut short when Eryl fell to an enemy's weapon.



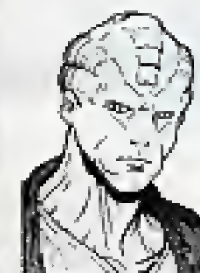
Cheklev

A Devaronian, Himekh'wao/Cheklev is mentioned briefly in *Star by Star*. He was one of the first Jedi Knights to experience wartime betrayal when his confederates on Devaron attempted to sell him to the Yuuzhan Vong. Cheklev eventually made his way back to the safety of his Jedi peers through the underground "greatriver" saferoute.



Daeshara'cor •

A female Twi'lek hailing from Rylloth, Daeshara'cor was a close friend of Octa Ramis. Both agreed with Kyp Duran's viewpoint that the enemy invaders must be stopped with violence, but they took it a step further. In *Dark Tide II: Ruin*, Daeshara'cor embarked on a search for a lost superweapon to use against the Yuuzhan Vong against Luke Skywalker's wishes. The Twi'lek Jedi drifted so close to the dark side that she imprisoned Anakin Solo when the younger Jedi got in her way. Ultimately Daeshara'cor gave up her search and fought alongside her fellow Jedi in the Battle of Ithor. She was poisoned by amphistaff venom and passed into the Force a short time later, her body dematerializing as Yoda's had done.



Dorsk 82 •

The eighty-second clone of the original Dorsk, this male Khommite came from a society in which conformity ruled above all else. His "father," Dorsk 81, showed unexpected Force ability and trained with Luke Skywalker in the Jedi Academy trilogy. After Dorsk 81's death, Dorsk 82 debuted as a Jedi in the comic series *Jedi Academy: Leviathan*. He died on Ando in *Edge of Victory I: Conquest*, after the native Aqualish betrayed him in order to appease the Yuuzhan Vong.



Jovan Drark •

A new addition to the Jedi pantheon, Jovan Drark is a male Rodian Jedi Knight who works closely with the Dathomirian warrior woman Tenel Ka. The two Jedi were stationed at the New Republic's Bilbringi shipyards during *Balance Point*, using the Force to help root out undercover Yuuzhan Vong infiltrators. Jovan

Drark later accompanied the Jedi taskforce sent to Myrkr but lost his life in the effort.

Eelysa •

This female human from Coruscant was born after the Emperor's death at Endor and became one of Luke Skywalker's Jedi academy students prior to the events of the 1996 novel *The New Rebellion*. As a Jedi Knight Eelysa became one of the most gifted members of the Order, embarking on long-term missions to the untamed corners of the galaxy. On Barab I she discovered the Force-strong Barabel Saba Sebatyne and trained her as her own apprentice. Eelysa left Barab I when the anti-human Diversity Alliance grew too powerful, but Saba Sebatyne passed along her teachings to other Force-sensitive Barabel. During the events of *Star by Star*, Eelysa fell to an enemy voxyn while on an undercover mission to Corellia.



Keyan Farlander

Introduced in 1993 as the main character of LucasArts' classic space-combat simulator *X-Wing*, Keyan Farlander has long been pegged by trivia buffs as the pilot of the Y-wing fighter flying away from the exploding Death Star at the end of *Episode IV: A New Hope*. Farlander's Force-sensitivity helped him survive the battles of Hoth and Endor, and he now works with Luke Skywalker as a Jedi piloting instructor.



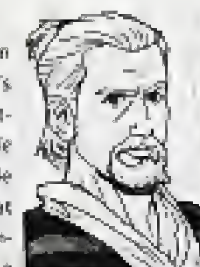
Swilja Fenn •

Like Daeshara'cor, Swilja Fenn was a female Twi'lek who attained the rank of Jedi Knight in the New Jedi Order. In *Edge of Victory I: Conquest*, the enemy collaborators of the Peace Brigade captured her on Cujico and turned her over to the Yuuzhan Vong. She is believed to have died at the hands of Warmaster Tsavong Lah.



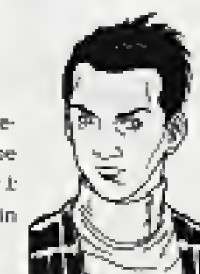
Corran Horn

This ex-CorSec detective and former Rogue Squadron X-wing pilot is the popular star of Michael Stackpole's X-Wing books, as well as the "autobiographical" first-person novel *I, Jedi*. In *The New Jedi Order's Dark Tide* duology, Corran Horn and fellow Knight Ganner Rhysode fought several Yuuzhan Vong on Bimmie. Corran's defeat of the warriors earned him the enmity of enemy commander Shedao Shai. The two eventually squared off in a one-on-one duel for the planet Ithor. Though Corran won, the Yuuzhan Vong destroyed Ithor anyway. The public blamed the Jedi for the debacle, and Corran voluntarily became the fall guy, entering self-imposed exile to distance himself from Luke Skywalker and the rest of the Jedi. A year later he returned to active duty and helped Anakin Solo and Tahiri Veila foil an enemy mission to Yag/Dhul. Corran's two children, Valin and Jysella, are Jedi trainees.



Seyyerin Itoklo •

This near-human Etti from Etti IV suffered the consequences of the enemy warmaster's decree that all Jedi be turned over to the Yuuzhan Vong. In *Edge of Victory I: Conquest*, Kyp Duran mentions Jedi Knight Seyyerin Itoklo in a list of the fallen.





Miko Reglia •

Miko Reglia took a special apprenticeship under Kyp Durrön and graduated to Knighthood shortly before the events of *Vector Prime*. He was linked romantically with fellow Jedi Octa Ramis and joined Kyp Durrön's starfighter squadron—the "Dozen-and-Two Avengers"—on anti-smuggling missions throughout the Outer Rim. On one such sortie, Yuuzhan Vong raiders decimated the Avengers, capturing Miko and psychologically breaking him in an ice prison on Helska 4. Miko Reglia died in an escape attempt.



Ganner Rhysode

Narcissistic in the extreme, Ganner Rhysode debuted as a rival of Corran Horn in *Dark Tide I: Onslaught*. Ganner prefers ostentatious blue and black robes that highlight his muscular physique. He possesses strong telekinetic abilities and carries a yellow-bladed lightsaber. Partnered with Corran on a mission to Garqi, Ganner clashed with his fellow Jedi Knight over their conflicting styles—one flashy, the other by-the-book. Ultimately Ganner saved Corran's life and then accompanied him to Garqi, where Ganner suffered a facial scar that maimed his poster-boy good looks. The experience taught him the value of humility, though Ganner still struggles with his inherent ego. He later joined Kyp Durrön in a failed mission to rescue Wurth Skidder from enemy captivity. As the oldest member of the Jedi taskforce sent behind enemy lines to infiltrate Myrkr, Ganner appeared to be the group's leader, but he deferred all command decisions to young Anakin Solo.



Saba Sebatyne

Introduced in *Star by Star*, this female Barabel from Barab I was trained through an unorthodox apprenticeship under Jedi Knight Eelysa and thus technically is not a member of the 100-odd Jedi in Luke Skywalker's Order. Saba trained others in the Force, including her Barabel offspring Tesar Sebatyne, Bela Hara, and Krasov Hara, and attracted Force-sensitive followers including Drif Lij,

an Arcona named Izal Waz, and Wanetun, a male Brubb. Saba's "Wild Knights" starfighter squadron rivals Kyp's Dozen in its maverick exploits. During the events of *Star by Star*, Saba's followers Drif Lij, Bela Hara, and Krasov Hara lost their lives.



Wurth Skidder •

Once a cocky follower of Kyp Durrön's philosophy, Wurth Skidder clashed with Leia Organa Solo early in *Vector Prime* over his accidental interference in her diplomatic negotiations at Rhommamool. Skidder fought at the Battle of Ithor and then allowed himself to be captured by the Yuuzhan Vong on Gyndine. Placed aboard an enemy warship carrying a battle-coordinating

yammosk, Skidder posed as a common prisoner until his status as a Jedi Knight was revealed. A rescue mission led by Kyp Durrön failed to free him and Skidder died aboard the yammosk vessel.

Anakin Solo •

Youngest of the three Solo children, Anakin Solo was—in the eyes of some—Luke Skywalker's heir apparent to become the next head of the New Jedi Order. Anakin's birth came in the comic book series *Dark Empire II*, and in the years since he emerged as a confident young man with a

deep, almost unconscious connection to the Force. In his mid-teens Anakin viewed the Force as a tool, much like his violet-bladed lightsaber. His pragmatic approach—the polar opposite of his brother Jacen's spirituality—made him vulnerable to the aggressiveness preached by Kyp Durrön. In *Vector Prime*, Anakin blamed himself for the death of Chewbacca and allowed the guilt to affect his actions. When he later debated whether to fire the Centerpoint Station superweapon against the enemy, his hesitation triggered a disaster for the New Republic navy. Anakin emerged as a hero in *Edge of Victory I: Conquest*, gaining a new understanding of the Yuuzhan Vong by partnering with an enemy warrior. In *Star by Star*, Anakin led the seventeen-member Jedi mission to infiltrate an enemy worldship at Myrkr, where he died heroically in combat.



Jacen Solo

Oldest son of Han Solo and Leia Organa Solo, Jacen Solo has played an important role in *Star Wars* literature since he and his twin Jaina were born in 1993's *The Last Command*. The invasion of the Yuuzhan Vong has thrown Jacen into a moral quandary. In his maturing understanding of Jedi abilities, he has come to believe that the Force should never be used as a weapon or a tool. As the war progressed Jacen became a pacifist, pulling away from the Force in the hopes of gaining further insight. Prior to the Battle of Duro, he even rejected the use of his green-bladed lightsaber. When Tsavong Lah threatened his mother's life, Jacen reluctantly tapped into the Force and defeated the enemy war-master. He is still searching for balance and spiritual meaning, while Tsavong Lah is determined to sacrifice Jacen to the gods. Following the pivotal Myrkr mission in *Star by Star*, Jacen was captured by enemy troops.



Jaina Solo

Teenaged Jaina Solo took a starring role in the Young Jedi Knights series, defeating threats to the New Republic with her glowing violet lightsaber. She's a hot pilot and knows her way around a toolbox, demonstrating that the Solo blood runs strong in her veins. Jaina often clashes with her mother, and she took up an apprenticeship with Mara Jade Skywalker prior to the events of *Vector Prime*. Jaina has been more aggressive than either of her siblings in countering the Yuuzhan Vong threat. In *Dark Tide II: Ruin*, Jaina accepted a position as an X-wing pilot in Rogue Squadron but suffered temporary blindness while flying against the enemy at Kalarba. She recuperated on Duro but did not immediately rejoin the squadron in light of the Yuuzhan Vong's decree that all Jedi be surrendered into their custody. Jag Fel, son of legendary TIE fighter ace Baron Soontir Fel, has exhibited a budding romantic interest in Jaina Solo. The death of her brother Anakin in *Star by Star* has pushed Jaina dangerously close to the dark side.



Tekli

A student of Master Cilghell's, this female Chadra-Fan has only limited Force-sensitivity yet still managed to attain the rank of Jedi Knight. Like all members of her species, she is short by human standards and possesses a sensitive nose capable of distinguishing thousands of scents. Tekli appears briefly in *Balance Point*, pointing Luke Skywalker in the direction of a Yuuzhan Vong infiltrator hiding in Coruscant's undercity. In *Star by Star*, Tekli showed her skills as a healer by acting as the medic for Anakin Solo's Jedi infiltration force.



WHO'S WHO



Raynar Thul

Introduced in the Young Jedi Knights series, Raynar Thul is the wealthy heir to the Thul merchant fleet, formerly of Alderaan. During his academy training, Raynar developed a reputation as pompous and spoiled, an image he shed after seeing his father die in battle with the Diversity Alliance. In the current era of the Yuuzhan Vong invasion, Raynar is considered one of the bravest Jedi Knights, and he fought with distinction and was wounded aboard the *Myrkr* worldship in *Star by Star*.



Kirana Ti

In *The Courtship of Princess Leia*, readers met the witches of Dathomir—a tribe of Force-wielding spellcasters from a primitive planet. Kirana Ti was one of the novel's less-prominent witches, but she became one of the first students at Luke Skywalker's Jedi academy. Now a Jedi Knight, Kirana Ti is using her Jedi skills and her knowledge of Dathomirian "magic" to stem the Yuuzhan Vong invasion.



Tionne

The Jedi Knight known as Tionne joined the inaugural class of the Jedi academy after Luke Skywalker discovered her aboard the ancient space outpost Eris Station. Her passion is Jedi history, which she relates in the form of lyrical ballads. Her Force abilities were never strong, but Tionne emerged as an able instructor for the younger students. Eventually she married fellow Jedi Kam Solusar, and the two became co-administrators of the academy in the

New Jedi Order era. Tionne appears in *Edge of Victory I: Conquest*, helping evacuate the academy's children ahead of a Yuuzhan Vong invasion force.



Thrynna Vae

Thrynna Vae, a human Jedi Knight, learned the Jedi way under the direct tutelage of Master Tresina Lobi. Prior to the events of *Balance Point*, Thrynna Vae went to Duro to investigate possible enemy collaboration within CorDuro Shipping. When Vae got too close to the truth, CorDuro officials had her beaten to death by Gamorrean thugs, then dumped her body out an airlock.

Zekk

In *Young Jedi Knights: The Lost Ones*, Zekk was introduced as a juvenile delinquent inhabiting the seedy undercity of Coruscant. Over the course of the series he became a Dark Jedi, then a bounty hunter, before joining Luke Skywalker's Jedi academy as a trainee. By the time of the New Jedi Order series, Zekk is a full Jedi Knight. He fought valiantly at *Myrkr* in *Star by Star*, but despite disgust for his dark-side past he may yet prove susceptible to Kyp Durron's philosophy of aggression.



JEDI TRAINEES

Jysella Horn

Daughter of Corran Horn and Mirax Terrik, Jysella Horn is still very young. It will be many years before she graduates to Knighthood.



Valin Horn

Corran Horn's son and oldest child, Valin was eleven years old at the start of the Yuuzhan Vong invasion. He appears briefly in *Dark Tide I: Onslaught*, mischievously using the Force to cover Gammer Rhysode in a swarm of gamant insects. When the Yuuzhan Vong threatened the Yavin 4 academy in *Edge of Victory I: Conquest*, Valin helped Anakin Solo, Tahiri, and Sannah distract the advance forces of the Peace Brigade.



Sannah

Sannah is a mermaid-like Melodie from Yavin 8. Since she is still in her childhood stage, Sannah resembles a human girl. In the Junior Jedi Knights series, Anakin Solo and Tahiri brought Sannah to Yavin 4 for training at Luke Skywalker's Jedi academy. Sannah assisted Anakin, Tahiri, and Valin Horn in *Edge of Victory I: Conquest* in the evacuation of the Jedi academy.



Tahiri Veila

Though she is human, Tahiri was raised by Tusken Raiders on Tatooine after the deaths of her homesteader parents. Tionne brought her to the Jedi academy on Yavin 4, where she befriended Anakin Solo in the Junior Jedi Knights series of young-reader novels. Still in her early teens, Tahiri is a friendly, free-spirited young woman who prefers to walk barefoot. In *Edge of Victory I: Conquest*, Yuuzhan Vong shapers on Yavin 4 captured Tahiri and tortured her into thinking she was one of them. Anakin rescued her, and the two of them partnered on a mission to Yag'Dhul. Tahiri and Anakin have since developed a deep connection that goes far beyond mere friendship. Tahiri still possesses facial scarring inflicted on her by the Yuuzhan Vong, as well as implanted memories of their culture and language. Her unconscious understanding of the enemy allows her to easily operate captured equipment, making her an invaluable member of Anakin Solo's Jedi infiltration squad in *Star by Star*.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. According to Expanded Universe lore, what Imperial account depicted herself as a dancing girl in Jabba's Palace?
2. What major event in Luke Skywalker's life was chronicled in the comic book series *Star Wars: Union*?
3. Which of the following characters from *Return of the Jedi*—General Crix Madine, Mon Mothma, and Admiral Ackbar—would not turn up to see the Yuuzhan Vong invade the galaxy decades later?
4. According to Expanded Universe lore, what is the red and yellow pinging on Han Solo's moisture called?
5. What fellow Jedi gave Lilo a lightaber on *Star Shards*?

ANSWERS: 1. Han Solo 2. His wedding 3. His wedding 4. General Crix Madine 5. General Crix Madine

AURRA SING'S CONVENTION DIARY

by Michonne Bourriague

GENCON 2000 MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

I'm kind of nervous because this is my first convention appearance as Aurra Sing. I hope that people know enough about my character to know who I am. I'm really excited about meeting the fans. I'm curious to know what they know about Aurra Sing. I hope they don't ask me some crazy detailed question that I have either no idea what they are talking about, or want to know the answer to.

I can't believe how many people are going to attend this convention. They are expecting 30,000-35,000! I have no idea what to expect.

What I Learned about 30,000 Gamers

Wow! I cannot believe the things I saw this weekend! I saw people dressed up as vampires, stormtroopers, elves, and other things I can't remember. I had so much fun! Aurra Sing has a pretty large fan base considering she only had three seconds of screen time. I've learned that *Star Wars* fans will analyze scenes, and they want information on anything they don't know much about.

I met a lot of really cool people from all different aspects of the conventions. I met *Star Wars* actors, artists, fans, voice actors, really cool employees, and volunteers. I met the "Star Ladies," a group of women from all over who love *Star Wars* and have created this group as dedicated fans.

So, all in all, I did well. I met some really great people and couldn't have asked for a better first convention.

DECIPHERCON 2000 ORLANDO, FLORIDA

This convention is nowhere near as large as Gen Con. It had approximately 30,000 attendees, and this convention will have 2,000. I think it will be a lot of fun. Next month I will be going to Austin for another con that will also only have about 2,000. I'm so excited that I am able to travel to these conventions and not only have all expenses paid but also have the opportunity to travel, meet with fans, and make new contacts.

Last week I got the Masterpiece Edition with the Aurra Sing action figure. The first thing I did after opening it was call my boyfriend to share the incredible news. When I first got the doll, I didn't even hold it that much because it was so surreal. The book is incredible. I just can't believe how much has come of that little part I played. Never did I think it would come to this. I've been invited to go to Tokyo, Japan in December for a week.

The convention went really well, only a couple of mix ups in terms of work. Decipher treated me very well. I spent a lot of time with Shannon Baksa who posed for Decipher's game cards as Mara Jade. She has been doing cons for the last year and gave me a lot of good advice.

Shannon will probably attend the Tokyo con with me in December.

Decipher also featured new Young Jedi cards that will be out in about three weeks. They're fantastic! I was told the Aurra Sing card is pretty rare and hard to get. It's also a powerful card to have. The new one is really cool. It features Aurra Sing holding a lightsaber. It's so strange that they call me a celebrity. I hardly think so. The most popular question is, "Do you get noticed on the streets a lot?" I respond with, "Are you kidding me? *Star Wars* is huge and has an incredible fan base all over the world, but I am just a girl aspiring to be an actress in a small town, and no one recognizes me as Aurra Sing. Thank goodness. I hope I don't look too much like her!"

You would not believe this tournament. These players stay up to the wee hours of the morning playing this game. They are really into it. People travel from all over the world to participate. At the awards ceremony, Shannon and I presented the awards and met the winners.

SCIFICON 2000: AUSTIN, TEXAS

Texas was a blast. I got to spend a day touring around the city and checking it out. Sixth Street was really fun! The campaign for the presidency was still going on and the capitol was swarming with paparazzi.

I met Dave Prowse (Darth Vader) this weekend. It was just he and I signing. We met a lot of wonderful fans who had great accents. I met a fan named John Laurel who wants to help me get a personal website going. I also met a fan who dressed up like Aunna Sing and had a picture of it. That was exciting. I had never seen someone else dressed up as her before. She did a great job. I really like it when fans ask questions and want to have conversations with me. It makes me feel like they are really interested in me, Michonne.

Japan Tour 2000

Michonne's Pre-Travel Jitters

I'm really getting nervous about this trip to Japan, but I'm extremely excited at the same time. I found out that I'll be touring with Jeremy Bulloch (Boba Fett), Jerome Blake (Mas Amedda), and Paul Blake (Greedo). We are going to six different cities in ten days: Tokyo; Osaka; Nagasaki; Nagano; Yokohama; and Nagoya. We are going to toy shops, movie theaters, bars, arcades, museums, and a toy show. It looks like we're going to be really busy.

First Impressions

It is truly awesome to be able to experience this culture and see this part of the world. It is very Americanized in Tokyo, but as you travel farther out into the countryside you start to see more traditional Japanese homes and gardens, beautiful temples, and small villages. The traffic is horrendous here. Most of the countryside I've seen is by train. Japan has an incredible train system. The speeds these trains reach and the modern designs are awesome.

I have enjoyed many new things, from authentic Japanese food to seeing this beautiful country and, of course, meeting many wonderful Japanese fans.

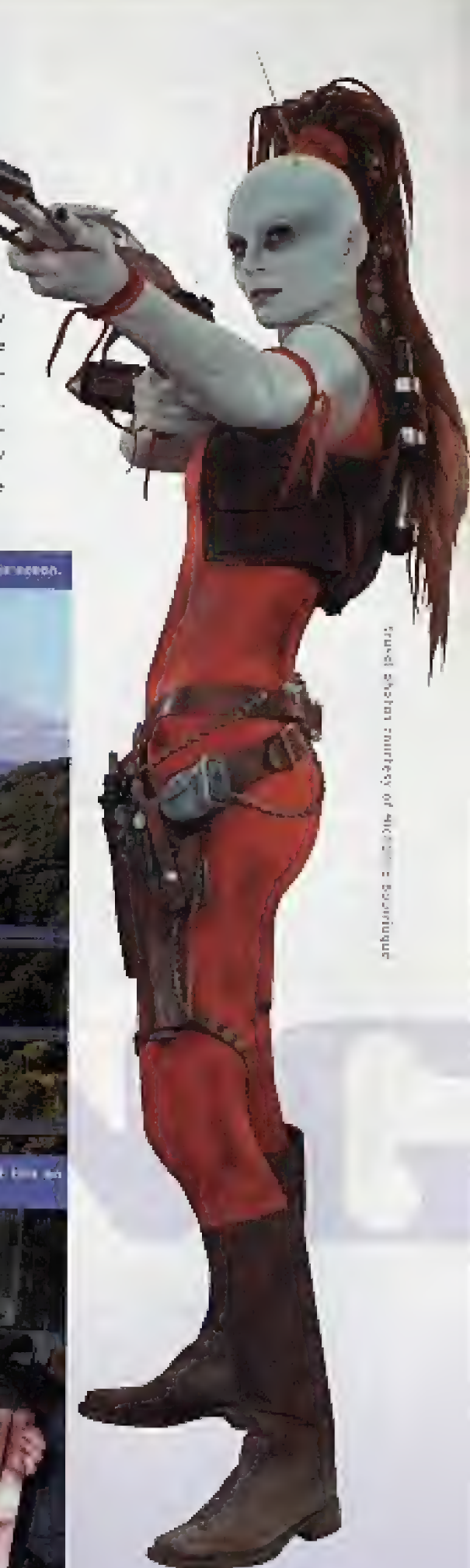
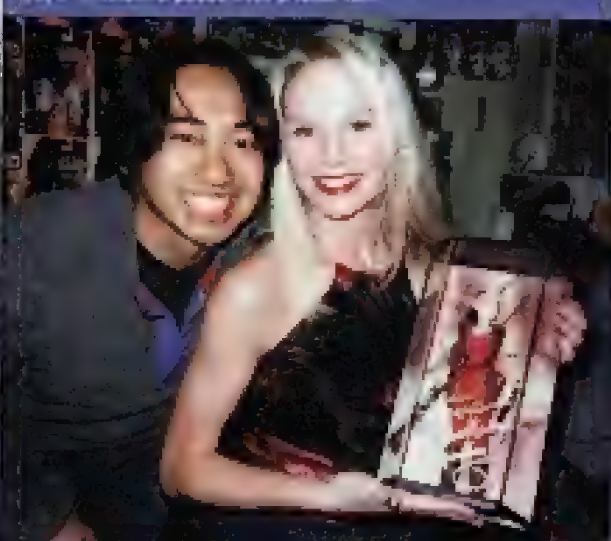
One day we went to a high school in Osaka. The kids were all in uniform patiently and quietly awaiting our arrival in the gym. We all took our

shoes off and waited in the principal's office where we were interviewed and pictures were taken. Then we walked down a hallway and into a large gymnasium where 700 students whispered as we walked to the stage. They were all extremely excited as they sat on the floor and stared. We were given the most beautiful bouquets by some of the students and were then introduced one by one. Translators spoke for us as we answered questions from "What is it like being a model/actress?" to "What is your favorite scene in the *Star Wars* movies?"

OSAKA, JAPAN To my left is the most beautiful view of this region.



JEREMY BULLOCH, 2000 "Are you sure you're not going to get this as a toy?" Michonne poses with a local fan.



Travel photos courtesy of Michonne's tour guide

AURA SING'S CONVENTION DIARY

Toward the end my heart started to race because I could see these kids were mesmerized, as if they were at a rock concert for a mega superstar. One of the Japanese speakers must have told them they could come and shake our hands because, as he spoke, children started to get up and rush the tables. It seemed like it was in slow motion, but the tables were being pushed back, and I started to get nervous. They were all screaming, trying to get to the front, afraid they might not be able to shake our hands. As some of the adults made a path for us to the door, the kids started to follow us.

The peak of the experience for me was when two girls, probably about fourteen, stood in my way to the door. As they stood there with their arms locked, they stared at me, giggling. I smiled and said, "Hello." As I went to walk around them, they reached out, touched my hand and proceeded to scream as if they had just touched a star or something. It was the most unique experience I've ever had. To top it off, as we left in the cars the kids were leaning out of the buildings screaming and waving goodbye. It was amazing. I left thinking, "That did not just happen." Later, I was told that these kids are from a place that is rarely visited by actors or famous people (which I am not). It was an incredible experience for them as well.

I was at a toy museum signing when a fan with the most interesting blue contacts came up to me and handed me a package. In his broken but good English, he said something to the effect of, "Please tell Debbie Gibson and Meg Ryan hello and that I will someday meet them." I was laughing inside thinking, "Does he think that because I was in this movie that I know every actor and musician there is?" I also had the pleasure of meeting some very talented artists. One gentleman did silk screening and made me some beautiful cards. Another made an Aura Sing ceramic doll that was probably about 12" in height and very beautiful.



WRESTLEMANIA XVII "Yo'll don't have anything to do with wrestlin' do ya?" Michelle and Shannon Boksa in Houston, Texas.



WIZARD WORLD, CHICAGO Paul Blake (Greedo), Michelle, and Richard Le Parmentier

DETROIT COMIC CON Michelle with two friends seen often on the circuit, Stacey Weaver and Futopia



You Can Take the Girl out of Japan ...

Just arrived home a few days ago. Still trying to catch up on sleep. This trip has completely wiped me out. We worked very hard and stayed in a different hotel almost every other night, sometimes every night. I met thousands of people over the last week and a half, faces and places I'll never forget. Some of the most special times were meeting people.

PITTSBURGH COMIC CON:

MONROEVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

This convention was special in that I met a couple of actors from the classic trilogy: Garrick Hagon and Kenneth Colley. It's always exciting to meet actors, and these two were so great, not to mention hilarious. They gave me some wonderful advice that I will definitely use.

As for the convention itself, it went very well. It was a larger show, including many comic book vendors, artists, actors, and toy vendors. I met Matt Busch, an licensed artist who is extremely talented. He did the cover of the convention booklet, which featured me as Aura Sing. It was beautiful. That is something I love about touring, being able to meet people who are artists, writers, actors, and fans who I am able to learn from. I can't describe what a learning experience touring has been for me.

ALPHA CON: OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Although I didn't get to see much of Omaha, I did meet a lot of local fans who were incredible. The volunteers were great along with the Alpha Con staff. Everything was very organized and went smoothly.

This convention had the largest number of *Star Wars* actors that I've ever seen. It was truly a treat to be able to meet so many stars from Episodes IV-VI. Among the group were Anthony Daniels, Peter Mayhew, Mike Quinn, Warwick Davis, Mike Edmonds, Femi Taylor, Mercedes Ngoah, Bill Hootkins, Angus MacInnes, Garrick Hagon, Richard Le Parmentier, Michael Sheard, Kenneth Colley, Maria de Aragon, and Paul Blake.

I had so much fun meeting all of these actors and spending some time getting to know each of them. I did a Q&A with Paul Blake, which was a blast. I think Paul is a real cool guy and funnier than heck. The session went really well. ☺

THE
DARK SIDE
CAN DELIVER
WHAT YOU MOST
DESIRE... ADMIT
IT.

ADAPTING JEDI QUEST

BY DANIEL WALLACE

A WISE MAN SAYS A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS.
A COMIC FAN SAYS A SPLASH PAGE COUNTS FOR A HALF-DOZEN PARAGRAPHS,
AT LEAST.

Comics are a visual medium, more akin to movies than books. Comics based on books present a unique problem: When done well, as with Dark Horse's adaptations of the Thrawn trilogy and *Splinter of the Mind's Eye*, they capture the essence of their progenitors with tight scripting and dynamic art that depict what readers had previously only imagined. Less successful adaptations, such as 1980's serialized newspaper recounting of *Han Solo at Stars' End*, have a simplified "Classics Illustrated" vibe that fails to harness the story-telling power of the two-dimensional image.

This was the conundrum faced by writer Ryder Windham and artist Pop Mhan in adapting *Jedi Quest* to the four-color page. Windham and Mhan brought this Anakin Skywalker coming-of-age story, conceived by Lucasfilm and novelized by Jude Watson (author of the *Jedi Apprentice* young adult series), to visual life this fall as a four-issue limited series from Dark Horse.

"The eloquence of a novel needs to be repeated in the comic book format," says Pop Mhan, "but done in twenty-two pages—or rather, twenty-two page increments." Ryder Windham concurs. "You can only have so many words in a word balloon before it becomes ungainly, and only so many panels on a comic book page before it starts to look cluttered. It's not just a matter of reformat-

ting the novel's text as instructions for the artist and letterer. Each page has to be composed carefully."

Deciding how to express the *Jedi Quest* novel through the complementary arts of scripting and illustration was a challenge. The plot of Watson's book pits young Anakin Skywalker against the barbaric space pirate Krayn. But while the novel is short (weighing in at 170 pages), it captures key moments and themes from Anakin's life, including the moment where he builds his lightsaber, the guilt he feels over leaving his mother in slavery on Tatooine, and the bad end that comes to enemies who get in the way of the future Darth Vader.

In *Jedi Quest*, four years have passed since the events of *The Phantom Menace*. Six years

will yet transpire before Anakin is thrust into the trials of *Star Wars*: Episode II *Attack of the Clones*. Anakin, on the brink of becoming a teenager, is learning the Jedi ropes as an apprentice to Obi-Wan Kenobi. Making the transition from childhood to adulthood would be difficult for any young Padawan, but when you're believed to be the Chosen One of ancient prophecy, "difficult" takes on a whole new meaning. Anakin's rage and recklessness bubble to the surface in *Jedi Quest*, helping set the stage for the next chapter of the *Star Wars* saga—the one coming to theaters in summer of 2001.

"*Jedi Quest* does more than hint at Anakin's precariousness with the dark side of the Force, which makes it a solid bridge between Episodes I and II," says Windham. "Although Anakin has yet to reach his full height in *Jedi Quest*, this story definitely marks the end of his childhood."

Ryder Windham is an old hand in the *Star Wars* universe, having written a shelf's worth of guidebooks, adventures, and previous Dark Horse comics, including the recent *Qui-Gon and Obi-Wan: Last Stand on Ord Mantell*. His next project will be Scholastic's *Attack of the Clones Scrapbook*, scheduled for release in May of 2002. "Scripting the *Jedi Quest* comics felt something like walking a brand new





to be continued...

Illustration by Pop Mhan

tightrope," he says. "The way the deadlines were set up, I had to work on the first three issues while the novel was still in progress."

Having written both traditional prose and comic books, Windham understands that the latter is essentially a screenplay. His densely plotted comic scripts block out the action for the penciller, suggest art references for spaceships and costumes, and provide continuity notes for the project editors. Given the confines of the twenty-two-page format, sometimes it's better to restructure a sequence completely than rely on a writer's crutch. "It's easy to establish a time transition or scene change with captioned text that reads, 'MEANWHILE, ON CORUSCANT...,' but that doesn't mean it's a good solution," Windham says. "So you try to figure out solutions that work well for the comic. The novel has a great prologue that involves seven-year-old Anakin on Tatooine, but I reworked the sequence as a flashback that appears in issue #2. It just seemed to work better that way."

But adapting a novel to comic book format isn't just doing a nip-and-tuck job to streamline the plot. In some cases it makes sense to go beyond the original source. Among the

JEDI QUEST DOES MORE THAN HINT AT ANAKIN'S PRECARIOUSNESS WITH THE DARK SIDE OF THE FORCE, WHICH MAKES IT A SOLID BRIDGE BETWEEN EPISODES I AND II."

—RYDER WINDHAM

scenes Windham added to the *Jedi Quest* story is an opening battle between Krayn's pirate craft and an outgunned freighter. After losing to Krayn the seemingly innocent freighter crew are revealed as slavers, and Krayn proves himself more ruthless than all of them when he sells the slavers into slavery.

"I think there's a quite bit more space-pirate action in the comic," says Windham, explaining where he branched off from the novel's plot. "This wasn't gratuitous action, as it establishes Krayn's relationship with various other characters, not to mention his brutal ways. The Jedi Council figures into another extra scene."

This is Pop Mhan's first *Star Wars* project, but he has twenty years of experience as a fan. "I never saw *Star Wars* in theatres because I was about four years old when it came out. My first *Star Wars* experience was *The Empire Strikes Back*. I am a huge fan of the *Star Wars* universe and love how it borrows so much philosophy and influence from eastern cultures."

Mhan has been drawing comics professionally since 1994, starting off at Wildstorm and moving on to Marvel and DC where he drew characters such as the Flash. At Dark Horse Comics he drew *SpyBoy* for seventeen issues with writer Peter David (who contributed the short comic "Skippy the Jedi Droid" to *Star Wars Tales* #1).

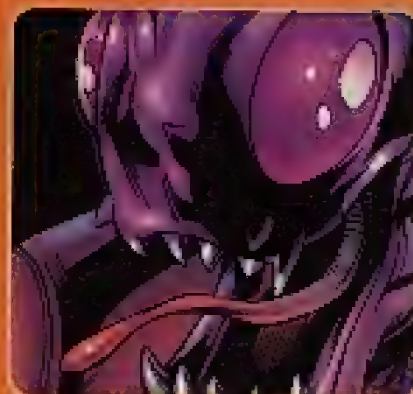
On *Jedi Quest*, Mhan combined the familiar (Wookiees, droids) with the never-before seen (pirate armor, Jedi hieroglyphics). His original designs feel like natural elements of the *Star Wars* universe—check out Qbi-Wan's stingray-shaped starfighter in issue #1—while his overall artistic style brings to mind the clean and dynamic lines of Japanese manga. "The manga-esque feel to my work is simply that I love the Japanese manga art style," explains Mhan. "I am also heavily influenced by the popular art styles of American comics. The

FOUR REASONS TO CHECK OUT JEDI QUEST

The story stands on its own, but we get supporting characters from across the *Star Wars* universe.

ANAKIN SEPULCHRE VS. DARTH VEIL: Does Anakin really do his worst when it's a Sith Lord? Find out when you start going to the big fight!

FRAMED: Without a doubt, the Jedi Council isn't perfect. What if the Council has been taken over by a group of Sith Lords? Find out when you start going to the big fight!



WOLFE: These characters were brought to life by the great minds of George Lucas and his team. Now they're back in the spotlight. Find out when you start going to the big fight!

ANAKIN SEPULCHRE VS. DARTH VEIL: Does Anakin really do his worst when it's a Sith Lord? Find out when you start going to the big fight!

blend is killing me, I assure you." (Those interested in *Star Wars* and manga should also look up the manga adaptations of the four existing *Star Wars* films, released by Dark Horse as English-language editions in 1998-99).

"*Jedi Quest* was a fun project to work on as an artist," says Mhan. "I got to draw some of the things I really enjoyed as a kid, and up to now with Episode I. Plus, I really enjoyed drawing Anakin. He is much cooler as a teenager than a kid." 🍌

THE NEW JEDI EDITOR

BY JASON FRY

SHELLY SHAPIRO SPILLS ALL . . . WELL, SOME

In the spring of 1998, a meeting at Skywalker Ranch drew together authors and representatives from Lucasfilm and Del Rey Books. Lucasfilm was working day and night on Episode I, which at the time was still a year away from theaters. The people gathered for this meeting, however, were concerned not with what happened a generation before we met Luke Skywalker in *A New Hope*, but with what should happen to him, Han Solo, and Princess Leia a generation later.

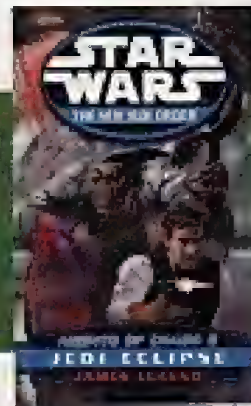
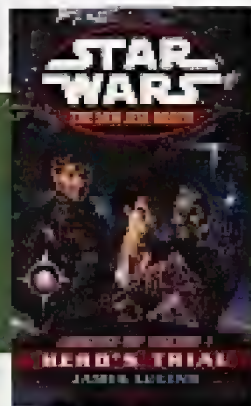
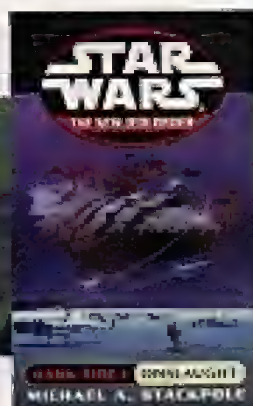
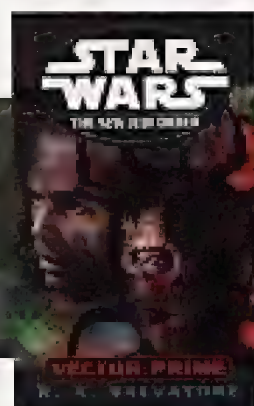
The brainstorming that day would eventually become a lengthy story arc known as the New Jedi Order, in which the implacable Yuuzhan Vong invade and ravage the *Star Wars* galaxy. The nine books in the story arc so far have given *Star Wars* fans quite a ride—a thrilling and sometimes shocking journey.

agreed it was time for a change.

"There was a sense that people were becoming bored with the [Expanded Universe of *Star Wars* stories], that the characters were stagnating, that there was a lack of forward momentum," Shapiro recalls. "We all love the characters—especially the original movie

Sadly, a few fans even threatened Salvatore, thinking Chewie's demise had been his idea. (It wasn't.) For her part, Shapiro can't remember who first broached the subject, but she does remember, "All of us at that first meeting loved the idea." Why did Chewie get the axe? Well, for one thing, Lucasfilm had ruled on who could die in the new series and who couldn't—and Chewie's creator himself didn't consider the Wookiee untouchable. But Shapiro notes it was a logical choice for the story. Chewie, she says, "is a difficult character to do much with in terms of point of view, and yet he was sufficiently beloved by the other characters that his death would have a real impact on them." (To which she adds with a grin that she refused to kill off Han Solo.)

As for the Yuuzhan Vong—battle-hard-



With The New Jedi Order now at its approximate halfway point, *Insider* sought out Del Rey Editorial Director Shelly Shapiro, who, along with Lucasfilm editor Sue Rostoni, is the person charged with the Herculean task of coordinating an ongoing galactic soap opera written by a slew of different authors, to talk about the series so far. While fans had welcomed *Star Wars* back to bookshelves in the years since Timothy Zahn's *Heir to the Empire* revived the saga in 1991, those gathered at Skywalker Ranch in the spring of 1998

characters—and there was a lot of energetic discussion about how to reinvigorate them."

The answer the participants settled on was dramatic to say the least. The first book in the series was October 1998's *Star Wars: The New Jedi Order—Vector Prime*, written by veteran fantasy author R.A. Salvatore. In the early days of the invasion, Chewbacca died. His death sent shockwaves through the fictional world of *Star Wars*—and the real world as well, as some newspapers and radio stations reported the Wookiee's "death."

ened warriors who eschew technology for bloweapons and are invisible to the Force—Salvatore, governed by a few simple rules set down beforehand, gave them life.

"We were told that the aliens could not be dark Force users—so we settled on no Force use at all," Shapiro says, adding that there were questions of "feel" to consider as well: "In the original movies, there was a clear division between the good guys and bad guys. The good guys looked homespun, while the bad guys looked high-tech. Since the New

"THERE ARE PARTS LEFT TO BE FILLED IN. WE'RE STILL NOT EXACTLY SURE HOW IT'S ALL GOING TO END, THOUGH THE PIECES ARE ALL IN PLACE. AND CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, WE HAVE NOT DECIDED WHO IS TO LIVE AND WHO IS TO DIE."

—SHELLY SHAPIRO

Republic had evolved and become pretty science-fiction-ish, we chose to turn that around. So the New Republic uses the hardware, and the aliens use a bio-based technology. That's all we told Bob Salvatore, and he invented from there. After him, the other authors built on what he had done, adding on and filling in as they saw fit."

Giving the authors that kind of freedom has always been an important part of the series, Shapiro notes, to the point that many of the new saga's details were left hazy. Some remain that way.

"We wanted the authors to bring as much of themselves to the storyline and character development as possible, within the confines of the bigger picture we were outlining," she says, adding, "There are parts left to be filled in. We're still not exactly sure how it's all going

from minor indignities such as losing her hair to the devastating loss of her youngest son.

"Mara's disease was not supposed to be a way to get rid of Mara or to dis her—it was supposed to provide an interesting challenge for her and Luke," Shapiro says. "We have never, ever, played favorites with those two couples, Luke and Mara and Han and Leia... And it certainly never occurred to us that we were 'torturing' Leia in the extreme."

"I never realized there were quite so many disparate interpretations of and reactions to the development of the [Expanded Universe] and the *Star Wars* characters," she says. "It's quite daunting."

Daunting for the editor, but exciting for the readers. Shapiro is hard at work editing 2002's crop of novels, which she says will mark a clear new direction in the story arc.



to end, though the pieces are all in place. And contrary to popular belief, we have not decided who is to live and who is to die."

That's one misconception that some *Star Wars* fans seem to have about The New Jedi Order—though to Shapiro's frustration, it's not the only one. Other misconceptions touch on such plot elements as Mara Jade's mysterious illness, the series' switching points of view between Han and Leia and Luke and Mara, and the trials and tribulations of Leia, who's had to cope with everything

The latest book in the series, Troy Denning's recently released *Star Wars: The New Jedi Order—Star by Star*, marks a turning point. That book, Shapiro says, is "the heart of *Darkness* of the whole series. It's extremely pivotal. The books that [appear] in 2002 will take that and really shape the new direction of The New Jedi Order."

"I've learned a lot so far, and there are definitely things I would have done differently had I known at the beginning what I know now about plotting a huge story arc," she says. ☺

MORE SPOILERS!

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR THE NEW JEDI ORDER IN 2002? OH, JUST THE END OF THE NEW REPUBLIC.

In discussing the year ahead, Del Rey editorial director Shelly Shapiro was willing to let that oh-so-minor detail slip. It that surprises you, long on for what else the next authors in the series are preparing.

The year 2002 will see the publication of five new books—taking the story arc to 26 books so far—from three authors who are new to the *Star Wars* universe and a fourth whom fans should recognize.

The familiar name is Karen Blanton, the veteran game designer and author who took over the reins from Michael A. Stackpole to write a line of books in the popular *X-Wing* series for Bantam. Blanton pens two books—*Star Wars: The New Jedi Order—Enemy Lines Book 1—Rebel Dream* (Del Rey, \$4.99) and *Star Wars: The New Jedi Order—Enemy Lines Book 2—Rebel Stand* (Del Rey, \$4.99), which Shapiro promises will feature Wedge Antilles in a starring role, the return of Booster Terrik, and Tionne fighting against the Yuuzhan Vong.

The *Star Wars* newcomers are Walter Jen Williams, Matthew Woodring Stover, and Elaine Cunningham.

Williams is a veteran science-fiction and fantasy author whose works include *Hyperion* and *Its sequel*, the Hugo- and Nebula-nominated *City of Ice*, as well as the classic cyberpunk thriller *Blindfire*. He'll take the reins for the year's New Jedi Order hardcover, due in November.

Bounding out the new Jedi Order schedule for 2002 are Cunningham's *Star Wars: The New*



Jedi Order—*Dark Journey* (Del Rey, \$4.99) and Stover's intriguingly titled *Star Wars: The New Jedi Order—Traitor* (Del Rey, \$4.99). Stover's giddy work encompasses everything from science fiction to fantasy; his books include *Iron Dawn*, *Myra's Fire*, and *Blade of Tybalt*. Cunningham is best known for her novels and short stories in the *Forgotten Realms* series. While this is her first *Star Wars* novel, she's no rookie—check out her short stories "The Crystal" in *Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi* and "Red Sky, Blue Flame" in *Comic 12*. *Dark Journey*, like "The Crystal," will star hotshot pilot and young Jedi knight Jaina Solo.

Expect paperbacks in February, April, June, and August.

As for what's coming in 2003? "Patience," he quotes a certain small green Jedi. "Always in motion is the future."

BEING OBI-WAN KENOBI

FINALLY, A JEDI YOU CAN REALLY GET BEHIND BY ELLIOTT CHIN

» Few figures throughout the history of the Galactic Republic are as famous as General Obi-Wan Kenobi. He was a hero of the Clone Wars and master to both Sith Lord Darth Vader and Jedi savior Luke Skywalker. Before Obi-Wan became such a heralded figure, though, he was a Padawan learner: inexperienced, unsure, and still learning the ways of the Force. In *The Phantom Menace*, we see Obi-Wan grow from an impatient student to a reluctant Jedi master. But what of his earlier adventures, before he met the infamous Anakin Skywalker? In LucasArts' upcoming Xbox video game, *Obi-Wan*, we get to be Obi-Wan Kenobi during the weeks leading up to the events of Episode I in an epic adventure in the style of *The Phantom Menace*.

Obi-Wan is an action-oriented game that pits you against a bevy of deadly alien enemies and droids. The game has a fair number of puzzles, but it is clearly an action game packed with things to cut down with your lightsaber.

NEW ENEMIES

The game begins on Coruscant, capital of the Galactic Republic, just weeks before the events of Episode I. You begin the game investigating a rash of crimes in the lower levels of Coruscant. Citizens are being harassed by a band of thugs called the Black Heth, a motley crew of Rodians, Aqualish, and Gran.

The Jedi Council has ordered you to investigate. You discover that the Black Heth is but a pawn of a larger and more sinister organization called the Jin'ha. The Jin'ha are a new entry to the Star Wars galaxy, created by LucasArts specifically for the game. You soon discover that the Jin'ha are mining cortosis, an alloy that is resistant to lightsabers. The only conclusion that the Jedi Council can draw from these clues is that some group is aiming itself to take on the Jedi Knights. Anyone with the cortosis alloy would be in a good position to resist the power of the Jedi. Soon, you find that the

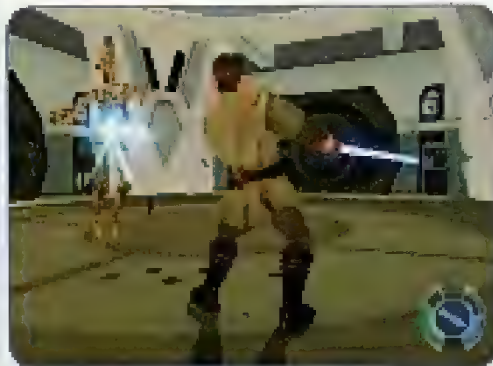


"CAN YOU FLY, BABY?" Obi-Wan uses the familiar Force Push high atop a Coruscant tower.

Jin'ha are selling the alloy to the Neimoidian Trade Federation. And as we find out in Episode I, the Trade Federation is indeed readying itself for an invasion of Naboo—and a confrontation with the Jedi.

CHAPTER AND VERSUS

The game unfolds in five chapters. The first two take place before the movie, while the



"OBI-WAN HAS A FULL ARRAY OF FORCE POWERS. YOU DON'T NEED TO TRAIN TO GET THEM, AND THEY AREN'T HANDED TO YOU PIECEMEAL THROUGHOUT THE GAME. YOU BEGIN THE GAME ALREADY ABLE TO WIELD THE FULL POWER OF THE FORCE."

rest parallel the events of *The Phantom Menace*. At times, these three chapters replay events in the movie, while other times they fill in the gaps when Obi-Wan was absent

After you inform the Jedi Council of the existence of the Jin'ha and their Cortosis operation, they send Jedi Masters Eeth Koth and Plo Koon to Obredaan to investigate. They are captured, however, and you and Qui-Gon must rescue them.

In Chapter Three, the Trade Federation has moved against Naboo, and you play through the events of the movie, escaping the Trade Federation ship and fighting battle droids. Chapter Four, meanwhile, takes place on Theed and Tatooine. First, you sneak into Theed to rescue Queen Amidala; later,

you brave Tusken Raiders to rescue the Queen's decoy, while the real Queen and Qui-Gon are meeting Anakin. Finally, in Chapter Five, you return to Naboo to aid the resistance in driving off the Trade Federation and play out the final confrontation with Darth Maul.

In addition to each chapter's missions, there is a training level and five Jedi duel levels. The Jedi duel levels are interspersed between chapters and serve as vehicles for teaching you lightsaber techniques and let-

ting you practice melee combat. After each chapter, you'll return to the Jedi Council for a non-lethal lightsaber duel. Your first battle is against a training droid, but subsequent battles pit you against Jedi Masters Ki-Adi-Mundi, Saesee Tin, and eventually Mace Windu. Because you'll be fighting sword-wielding bad guys, and even Darth Maul himself, these duel levels are great practice for honing your lightsaber technique. We saw a test level in which Darth Maul kept pressing and attacking Obi-Wan. It was obvious that Darth Maul is so powerful and aggressive that you'll need all the practice you can get.

YOU ARE A JEDI

From the outset, the designers were determined to give players the experience of being a Jedi Knight. Producer Michael Gallo says that for the team that meant making sure the game had plenty of lightsaber fighting, lots of acrobatics, and Force powers.

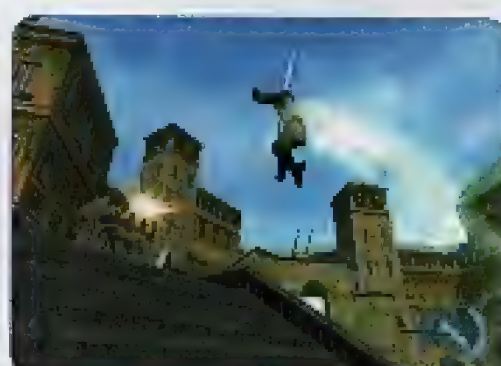
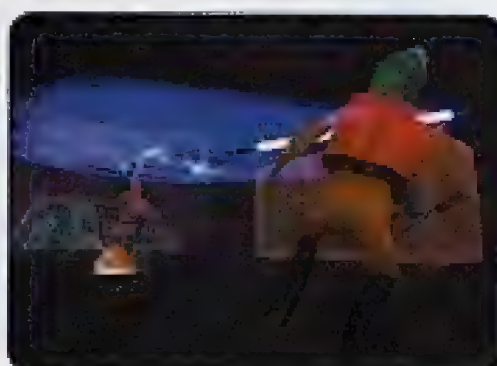
Although Obi-Wan does pack a sniper rifle and grenades, he'll use his lightsaber almost exclusively. In most third-person perspective games, melee fighting is awkward and cumbersome, but the designers of *Obi-Wan* have done an excellent job overcoming the traditional hurdles of melee combat. First, the right analog stick controls all lightsaber attacks, and nothing else. If you move right with the stick, Obi-Wan strikes right. Move



JEDI II: ELECTRIC BOOGALOO Not only do your acrobatics save your hide, they look pretty damned cool.

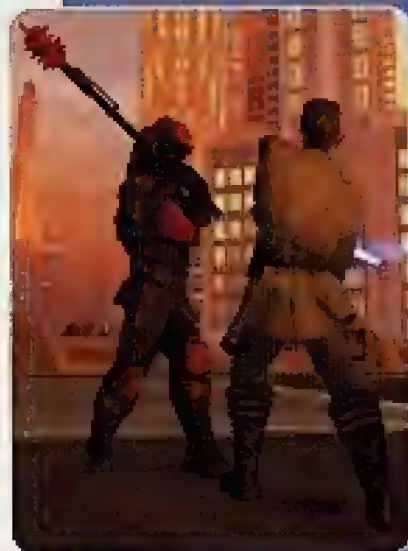
while the movie focused on other characters, as when Obi-Wan remained aboard the Queen's ship while she and Qui-Gon explored Mos Espa.

In Chapter One, you are in Coruscant fighting the Black Heth and picking up clues about the Jin'ha. In Chapter Two, the venue changes to Obredaan, the planet where the Jin'ha are hiding out and mining cortosis.



ANOTHER PATHETIC LIFE FORM?

The enemies you face in *Obi-Wan* are a mix of the familiar and the new, here is a sample of the opposition you may expect to fight during your quest.



JIN'HA

These new alien creatures in four varieties: a blaster-wielding grunt, a sniper rifle-wielding scout, and two melee combatants (wielding sword and axe, respectively).

TUSKEN RAIDERS

You fight these savage creatures while attempting to rescue the Queen's decay from a Republic ship now held by the Sand People. Expect to face an arsenal that includes spiked staves and rifles, before squaring off against the warlord.



DROIDS

There are more droid varieties in *Obi-Wan* than any other type of enemy. You will see both familiar battle droids, droid-brother droids, bulkier prototype battle droids called B1 droids, sword-wielding assassin droids, and exploding droids.

DARTH MAUL

The final confrontation in *Obi-Wan* is the climactic battle at the end of Episode 2. All your training comes down to this: a battle to the death against the new face of Sith power.

left and he strikes left. There is no need to push a button in conjunction with this stick for your basic attacks. However, to enable more spectacular moves, like spin attacks, you can hold down the Force button while

moving the analog stick, in which case you'll perform a super attack. By removing the need for button-pushing along with joystick movement, the designers have simplified fighting significantly.

Another innovation makes lightsaber fighting even easier. You can hold down a trigger button to enable a "lock on" feature. While holding that button, all your movement and attacks become relative to your opponent. Just hold down the but-


screen, rolling around opponents and jumping great distances. These acrobatics are basically a faster means of maneuvering in combat and dodging enemies, but they also add high-energy style to the game.

In addition to this Hong Kong action, *Obi-Wan* has a full array of Force powers. You don't need to train to get them, and they aren't handed to you piecemeal throughout the game: You begin the game already able to wield the full power of the Force. You perform Force powers by holding down the Force button and moving the regular controller. The familiar gamut of Force powers seen in the movies is here in this game, including feats of leaping, telekinetically throwing objects, and pushing enemies into walls. You can even use the Force to throw your lightsaber, leaving you weaponless for a short time but raising your lethal ability to new heights.

SPECIAL ADDITIONS

Other features that round out this game are excellent graphics and a two-player battle mode. The visuals include a wide range of environments, from the green foliage and hazy fog of the swamplands to the molten sunset on Coruscant, complete with sky-car traffic zooming along the horizon. There are plenty of special effects to take advantage of the Xbox system, including reflective floors and lightsaber scorch marks on walls.

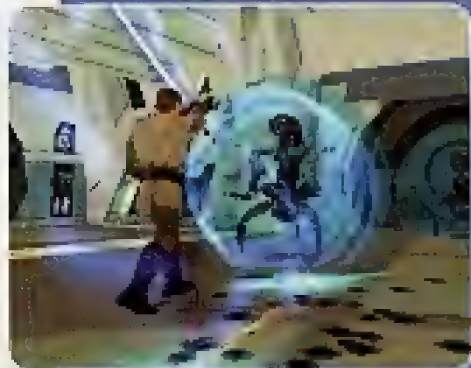
For multiplayer matches, *Obi-Wan* offers a split-screen battle mode in which you and another player can choose among a dozen Jedi Knights and masters to fight a one-on-one duel. This isn't a traditional, side-scrolling fight but a 3D melee with over-the-shoulder views for both players. You can play Jedi from Mace Windu to Qui-Gon Jinn to Obi-Wan Kenobi.

Obi-Wan is slated for a December release, a few months after the Xbox video game console debuts. With its promise of epic *Star Wars* adventure, lightsaber fighting, Force powers, and beautiful graphics, *Obi-Wan* has everything to please both gamers and devoted *Star Wars* fans. If you've always wondered what it's like to be a Jedi Knight, wonder no more. This December, you'll be able to experience the thrill of being a true Jedi. 



ton and attack, and you'll always be facing your foe. The lightsaber is a deadly weapon, but it is also a defensive shield. The saber automatically blocks all blaster fire if you aren't already attacking at the same time. Blocked shots usually ricochet to the side, but you can also reflect a blaster bolt back at your foe by holding down on the saber controller, thus enabling active blocking.

Aside from their lightsabers, the other hallmarks of Jedi Knights are acrobatics and Force powers. A button enables tumbling. While holding it, you can hurtle around the



HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN STAR WARS WEBSITE

FREE AND EASY WAYS TO SPRUCE UP YOUR SITE

BY PAUL ENS

WWW.STARWARS.COM WEBMASTER



If you're like two million other fans worldwide, you have a *Star Wars* website. Or perhaps what you've seen of *Attack of the Clones* has inspired you start one of your own.

While the only reason anyone should take on the task of setting up yet another web tribute to *Star Wars* is for their own enjoyment and satisfaction, the whole point of the World Wide Web is to share with a greater community. For both you and your visitors, improving your site can enhance your *Star Wars* webmaster hobby.

To that end, let's explore a few ways to spruce up your site—all of them free and easy (two wonderful Internet traditions).

OFFICIAL HEADLINES AND THUMBNAILS

It's no secret that regularly refreshed content is the key to creating a site people want to visit again and again. While there's no substitute for updating your site regularly, [starwars.com](http://www.starwars.com) has created a few free services that let your site reflect up-to-the-second updates at the official sites that will be automatically updated on your site with no extra work.

The official site has several on-going photo series features including the Episode I Snapshot, Classic Moments, and Photo-Caption contest. You can add automated graphical links to one or more of these photo series to your site with some simple code:

```
<a href="http://www.starwars.com/swtoday/photos.html"></a>
```

This code places an automatically refreshing graphic teaser on your site that looks like this:



If you want to take it one step further, you can add the latest daily [starwars.com](http://www.starwars.com) headlines to your site with this simple line of code:

```
<script language="javascript" src="http://www.starwars.com/community/webmasters/hlj.js"></script>
```

Using the font, color, link, and background attributes you've already set on your page, your viewers can see the four most recent [starwars.com](http://www.starwars.com) items updated in real-time. It will look like this:

Star Wars Today

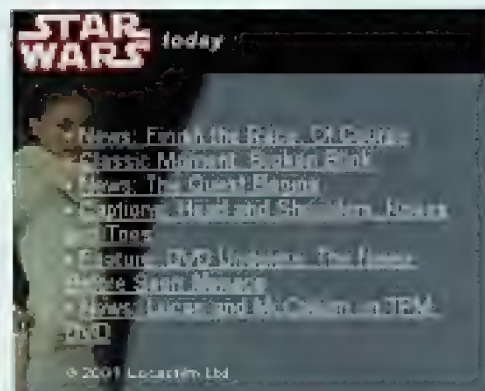
the latest from [starwars.com](http://www.starwars.com)

- [News: Finish the Race, Of Course](#)
- [Classic Moment: Broken Blink](#)
- [Feature: The Quest Begins](#)
- [Captions: Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes](#)

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If you're the type who would like an even greater degree of control over the way the headlines look on your site, check the official site for instructions on tweaking it to add graphics and make the headlines fit into virtu-

ally any look and feel. The "Lucas Links" page on lucasarts.com (www.lucasarts.com/about/links.htm) is one such example. Using the tools there, you can create graphics on your page like this:



For full instructions on using these and other [starwars.com](http://www.starwars.com) webmaster tools, see www.starwars.com/community/webmasters/

When the official release date for the Episode II DVD comes around, or if Mon Mothma is ever cast for Episode III, your site will reflect the information first.

COUNTDOWN CLOCK

For forward-looking web readers, a countdown-to-Celebration II clock on your site can be an effective way to share excitement. Equally important, it can help give your site a timely, up-to-the-second atmosphere.

There are a lot of freely usable countdown clock scripts available to you with some simple searching online. www.javascript.com is one place to start for commonly used web scripts. Some are very basic, while others can get pretty fancy with graphical clocks, time zone conversions, and more.

"THE NET DOESN'T NEED ANOTHER WEBSITE WITH A SCAN OF THE EPISODE I TEASER POSTER, FIVE LINKS, AND A THANK YOU TO GEORGE LUCAS."

If you're looking for something quick and dirty, use this bare bones but effective countdown code. As written, it will tell you the number days, hours, minutes and seconds until the opening day of the Celebration II convention in Indianapolis. If you'd like to countdown to another date, change the dDay variable to any date that interests you.

```
<form name="clock_form">
<input type="text" name="clock" size="50">
</form>

<script language="JavaScript">
<!-- Hide from non-JavaScript browsers
function clockTick()
{
now = new Date();
dDay = new Date("May 3, 2002");
diff = dDay.getTime() - now.getTime();

document.clock_form.clock.value =
Math.floor(diff / 86400000) + " days " +
Math.floor(diff / 3600000) % 24 + " hour " +
Math.floor(diff / 60000) % 60 + ":" +
Math.floor(diff / 1000) % 60 + " minutes";

document.clock_form.clock.blur();
setTimeout("clockTick()", 1000);
}
clockTick();
// End of clockTick -->
</script>
```

POLL

At its best, the web is not a passive medium but an active one—plus, there's no such thing as a *Star Wars* fan without opinions.

One of the easiest ways to add some basic interactivity to your *Star Wars* website is with a poll. You can pose questions about your favorite *Star Wars* controversy, get valuable feedback, or use the survey as an outlet for your

humor. ("Did Greedo shoot first?" "Is the latest figure wave available in your area?" "Which marinade sauce tastes best on bantha ribs?")

There are dozens of free poll providers on the web, all offering the same basic functionality and increasing flexibility. You can add a poll question like this one to your web site in about five minutes writing no web code at all through www.freepolls.com.

MAILING LIST

Despite the ever-increasing backlash against spam, most people still love to get email. It's like a special treat. Offer a mailing list that your readers can sign up for, then touch base with them every now and again to let them know what's new on your site. If your message is compelling, they'll be intrigued to come back to visit. (Of course, that means you'll actually have to update your site as a prerequisite.)

You can gather and manage your mailing list manually, but that can quickly become a pain and possibly a real drain on your mail server. There are a few free mailing list management services, including the popular Yahoo! Groups at groups.yahoo.com. With a simple form, you'll have your own group in a few minutes. Be sure to set the list to "newsletter" mode. That way only you will be able to send messages to the subscribers.

Once you have the list set up, you'll receive a link to your group's administration page. Click on the "Promote" link on the left hand side, and they'll even give you some html code to copy and paste onto your page, allowing your visitors to subscribe to your mailing list with a single click.

GO VERTICAL

With so many *Star Wars* sites out there, what will make your site unique? *Star Wars* is huge, but

Star Wars Poll

Which is your favorite?

- ☐ Phantom Menace
- ☐ Attack of the Clones
- ☐ A New Hope
- ☐ Empire
- ☐ Return of the Jedi

Vote!

[Results](#)

the broader you try to make your site, the shallower it will be. Narrow and deep is ultimately more satisfying both for you and your visitors.

My first *Star Wars* website (actually, my first website period) had a very specific purpose: to identify as completely as I could all of the differences between the original releases and the 1997 Special Edition films, nothing else. With that narrow focus, the site quickly became one of two or three authoritative sources for that information. Being good at a niche made me all kinds of contacts with *Star Wars* fans around the world, some of whom remain friends to this day. (That site is currently packed in mothballs at www.theforce.net/swse.)

With the Expanded Universe gaining momentum in the late 90s, my long-standing passions for comics and *Star Wars* were coming together. At the time, I felt Dark Horse's work was both spotty and underappreciated, so I decided that my second website would be solely dedicated to honestly reviewing each new comic that came out on a weekly basis. Pretty simple, but it eventually caught the attention of Dark Horse staff and the folks from a broader site based at Texas A&M who brought me on board for a larger project.

Figure out what attracts you to *Star Wars* and share it. The net doesn't need another website with a scan of the Episode I teaser poster, five links, and a thank-you to George Lucas. However, you might be just the person to present a how-to on building a life-size X-wing playground in your back yard, or the fictional label behind Max Rebo's failed recording career, or your sure-fire method of identifying Topps card sets just by smelling the gum residue. Now those are URLs worth forwarding. ☺

IMPERIAL STAR DESTROYER

HELP WANTED:
SCUM AND VILLAINY. APPLY WITHIN

BY CHRIS BETH
& CHRIS KRAVAT

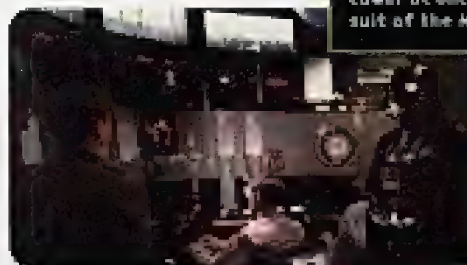
In the spring of 1979, the finest members of the Imperial fleet were filmed on Stage 5 of Elstree Studios. The Imperial Star Destroyer main bridge and Darth Vader's meditation chamber shared this soundstage. In reality the bridge set was fairly small. When expanded with large matte paintings, however, it opened up with a panoramic view of the stars. With this clever use of painted additions, the set served as the Control Bridge for multiple ships including the Star Destroyer Avenger and the Super Star Destroyer Executor.

The bridge set was designed by Norman Reynolds to evoke the feel of ancient slave ship galleys with the enlisted men—in this case, British stage actors playing enlisted men—working at the feet of their superiors. “Bounty hunters. We don’t need that scum,” we hear Pielt say from below as we are introduced to the motley group Vader has summoned to track down our heroes.

Bossk, a Trandoshan, overhears the comment and snarls ferociously at the officers. *Empire* director Irvin Kershner composed the look of the reptilian hunter played by Alan Harris. He brought together an old pressurized flight suit and alien mask that were used on separate characters in the cantina scene of *A New Hope*. Some leg bands, a white vest, and gray webbing straps from the Rebel pilot costumes were also cannibalized to detail the costume.

Bossk was not the only bounty hunter recreated from other parts. Dengar’s outfit, for example, is a combination of multiple pieces of repainted Imperial armor and a Hoth Rebel Trooper belt. 4-LOM’s costume consists of a protocol droid body like C-3PO’s with a redesigned chest plate and custom head. Even IG-88 is, at least in part, recycled Cantina parts. (See “Set Piece” in *Insider* Issue #54)

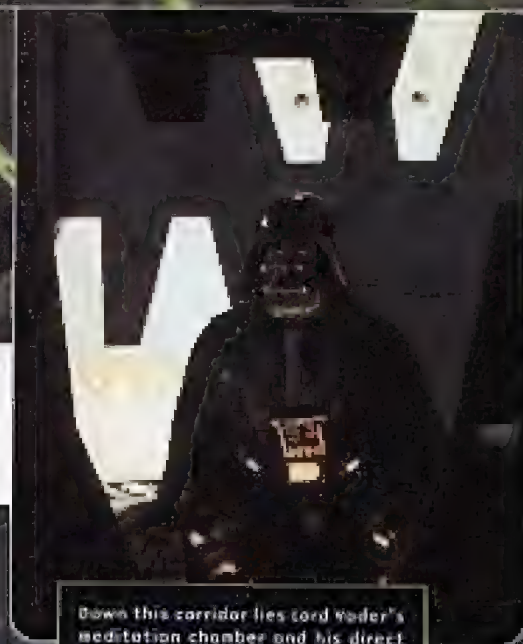
Holographic Communications Center: Join Vader in watching as Imperial commanders cower at escaping asteroids while in pursuit of the Millennium Falcon.



Three of these hunters would return for the final film of the *Star Wars* saga. Although Dengar and Bossk lost their quarry to the infamous Boba Fett, they are seen briefly among Jabba’s minions. In the competitive world of the bounty hunter, you have to go where the work is.



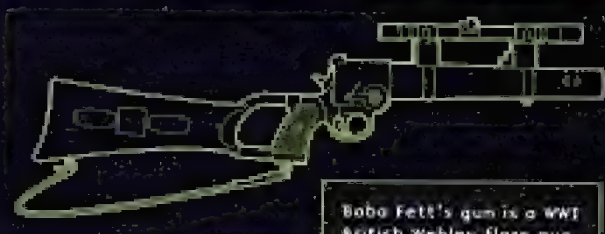
These rectangular wall panels were recycled from the *Tatooine* II hallway set from *A New Hope*.



Down this corridor lies Lord Vader's meditation chamber and his direct line to the Emperor.



The large blaster carried by IG-88 is an altered Roth Rebel Trooper rifle prop. (See "Set Piece" in Insider #55)



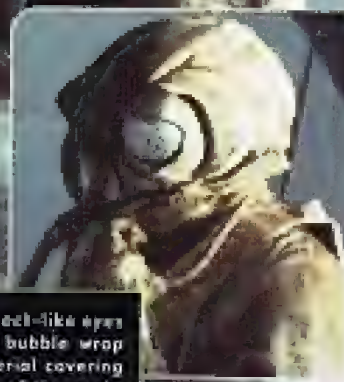
Boba Fett's gun is a WWI British Webley flare gun. The chrome handle of an antique camera flash was inserted into the barrel and a scope was added.



Darth's rifle is a modified British Schenck anti-riot gun with two short, heavy artillery-sighting telescopes mounted on top.



Dengar's blaster rifle is a German MG42 machine gun circa WW2 with the bipod stand and rear stock removed.



Turk's insect-like eyes are actually bubble wrap packing material covering the eyeholes of the mask.

The droid 4-LOM is armed with an unmodified German MG34 machine gun. These guns were used by many Imperial troops in A New Hope. (See "Set Piece" in the upcoming Insider #56)

ON THE CIRCUIT

COMPREHENDING COLLECTIBLES

FINDING STAR WARS' HOLY GRAIL
ZUZU CLARIFIES, OR DOES SHE?
AND SELL THEM TO THE EXPERT!

BY STEVE SANSWEET

This past summer's comic, sci-fi and media conventions got my collector juices flowing again. Just being in large rooms with hundreds of dealer tables and booths, and thousands of other collectors scurrying to find that one long sought-after item—maybe that same item that you have been searching for—is enough to get the heart pumping.

I was on the road again with a new presentation, "Star Wars: Connections," showing how all of the four existing films in the Star Wars saga and Episode II are part of one epic saga. Of course, I couldn't help taking a few moments to check out what was new—and old—in the dealers rooms at the shows. Hasbro wowed collectors with early looks at some of its coming line. Items such as Luke in the bacta tank, one of my favorites. Topps previewed its Star Wars Evolutions card set and was even nice enough to do an exclusive card for the Connections presentation.

And then there were the toys, comics, posters, and all sorts of other merchandise both old and new, domestic and foreign that lined shelves, filled boxes, and hung on pegs. The prices ranged from free (Rhino Records was giving away embroidered adhesive Jedi patches at San Diego Comic-Con International) to original Boba Fett animation cels for thousands of dollars. All in all, a great summer to be "on the circuit."

Now your questions:

DEATH STAR SIGHTING

I love props, models especially. I readily purchase any publication that gives me a clearer reference to the Star Wars prop universe like DK Publications' Visual Dictionary series, "The Art of" series, and my

prized possession, *The Star Wars Chronicles*.

Each obscure prop has seemed to be documented, discussed, and profiled to death. Yet one prop, and not an obscure or small background player, has been blatantly absent among the myriad

of X-wing, TIE fighter, and even Dr. Evazan's gun photos. That's the original *Star Wars* Death Star studio model. Even in the famous Lucasfilm Archive shot of George Lucas in front of a sea of props, the Death Star from *A New Hope* is not pictured.

There are several possibilities. One is filled with overtones of a conspiracy theory, and the other is more plausible. In 1996 I read an obscure piece concerning its whereabouts. Rumor had it that it was in a private collection due to a storage mix up during ILM's starting years, eventually landing in the hands of three private individuals who purchased it from the original storage unit owner. If true, it had to be the ultimate collector's piece! I mean, it's THE Death Star! I patiently waited to hear something from official channels.



“TO ME, SOMETHING LIKE THIS IS A MISTAKE, NOT A TRUE VARIATION, AND THUS WORTH LESS THAN THE REGULAR MINT, CARDED FIGURE.”

Then just recently I came across this website: www.toysrgus.com. Lo and behold, it has a photo of the Death Star in someone's living room. If this isn't the real McCoy, it's an excellent fan piece of work. I too looked up all my references and did a grid-by-grid comparison with the photos on the site, and they all matched up. Those three guys have to be some of the luckiest Star Wars collector's I know of.

The conspiracy theory concerns inconsistent stories ranging from “the Death Star was destroyed for the climactic sequence” to the contradictory reference in at least one book to the Death Star never having been realized in physical form but only in matte paintings. If you could clear up these contradictory lines and shed some light on the holy grail of Star Wars history, all us Death Star fans would be greatly appreciative.

JOE DIVAR
Omaha, NE

This is indeed one of the Holy Grails of prop collecting, and it has now ended up in the living room of Super Collector Gus Lopez, proprietor of The Star Wars Collectors Archive. I'm not sure we'll ever know for certain the full details of exactly what went down, but this is it in a nutshell according to the participants, who first contacted me about five years ago.

Todd Franklin, his brother Pat, and friend Tim Williams first spotted the piece in a flea market in Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri. The couple selling it told them that they

had owned a storage facility in Southern California and that this piece—and several other small vehicles that they had given to their grandchildren to play with—had been left behind when ILM moved to Northern California.

The couple moved to Missouri and put the Death Star up for sale. Either because of misinformation or lack of cash at the time, Todd, Pat, and Tim missed out on it. When they realized much later that this was, in fact, the Real McCoy, they revisited the dealers and discovered that the prop had been sold to a dance place. A few years later, it went out of business, and the three struck quickly, buying the Plexiglas globe, which was complete except for the Death Star's gun, which had been discarded somewhere along the way. A cardboard replica was substituted.

Gus, who had been in contact with the Missourians for several years, flew out to meet them in the fall of 1999, and a deal was struck. “They were wonderful hosts and are still some of the most devoted Star Wars fans I have ever met!” Gus says. “They had made arrangements with a local shipping company that was experienced in transporting rare antiques and was able to design a custom crate for transporting this piece by air, fully protecting the delicate surface of the Death Star.”

The incredible prop now sits in Lopez's foyer, after barely squeezing through the front door. It's protected by a custom-engineered, four-part Plexiglas case and has a light rigged to illuminate the sur-

face detail. As for as any conspiracy, Joe, the prop is pictured and captioned in your Star Wars Chronicles book on page 102. It's also in an ILM photo with Dennis Muren in Cinefex magazine issue 85 (reprinted on page 84.) The round Death Star was indeed also realized as a matte painting, as were sections of it, but the book you cited originally never said the Death Star wasn't a physical prop.

ONE CAPE SHORT

A few years ago, in 1996 I believe, I purchased a purple-carded Luke Skywalker in Imperial Guard Disguise from the Shadows of the Empire line. I left it on the original card for a special reason: the small plastic cage, which should be attached to Luke's back, was never packaged along with him. Could you help me in determining the value of this figure?

COOLPIAT12
Via the Internet

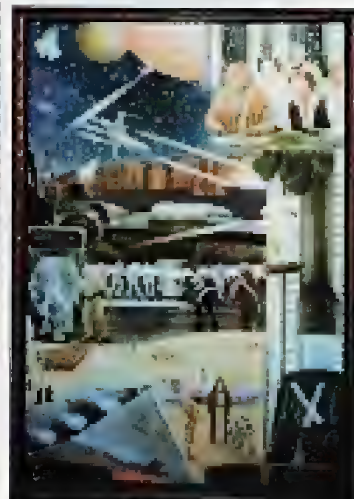
My advice to you would have been at the time of purchase: Take that piece of junk back to the store and get a complete one. To me, something like this is a mistake, not a true variation, and thus worth less than the regular mint, carded figure. In my mind that goes for the wrong figure on the card, a figure placed backward on a card, and similar things that can happen when you're dealing with 100,000+ small pieces of plastic. There are those who disagree, but I don't think even they would think this baby is your ticket to the Good Life.



CANVAS THE FIELD

I recently received a poster from a friend who is not a Star Wars fan. She won this poster from a raffle (1st-prize) at the Star Wars movie premiere back in 1977. It looks as though the poster is on canvas and was painted. There is no identifying mark on the front. It has a paper backing on it, and it looks like it was professionally mounted and painted. I do not want to remove the paper backing because I do not want to ruin the worth of the poster. I would like to know the origin of this poster, whether it was mass-produced or a prototype, and whether it is worth anything. I have looked all over, emailed this picture to friends, and cannot figure out who made this.

RYAN BENIS
Alton, IL



I'm afraid that this is the segment of the "Antiques Roadshow" where we give folks the bad news. In fact, if you caught this column two issues ago, you might have had a gulp of recognition. And while I assume your non-Star Wars fan friend gave you this piece for free and thus all clichés should apply, her memory might be a bit faulty.

It isn't canvas, and it isn't a poster. It's a small cutting from a much longer roll of Star Wars pre-pasted vinyl wallpaper made by Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. (ICI) in Cheshire, England but widely sold in the U.S. However, the wallpaper wasn't commercially available until many months after the film opened in May 1977. Frankly, the style of frame looks later than '77 to me, too; then again, that's not my field of expertise. As for value, it's a nice-looking oddity for which someone might be willing to pay \$25 or \$30. If I were you, I'd put it on the wall as a great souvenir of the era.

LEIA LEANINGS

Maybe I'm just a little forgetful, but I really doubt it. Most likely my letter (Scouting Issue #52) fell down behind my bed and I just assumed that I had already mailed it, then later found it, and dropped it in the "out of town" mail slot. I do know one thing, though. I mailed it about a year ago, and I wrote it about a month before that. So what happened? Was the letter temporarily lost in the mail? Did it fall out of your sack of mail? Was it lost in the Chateau, Montana Post Office? Or am I just losing my mind, which is quite likely.

One thing is for sure: Of course my view of the Princess Leia action figures is out of date! There weren't any good Princess Leia's when I wrote that I'd send you the only Princess Leia figure I ever got just

to show you what a terrible figure it is except that it got put into storage when we moved. However, even now the only really good action figure doll I've ever seen are the Queen Amidala collectors' dolls, of which I have two. I've liberated them from their boxes, but don't panic. I keep them on doll stands and never play with them.

I just felt I should explain my so-called "out-of-date" views.

ZUZU FEDER

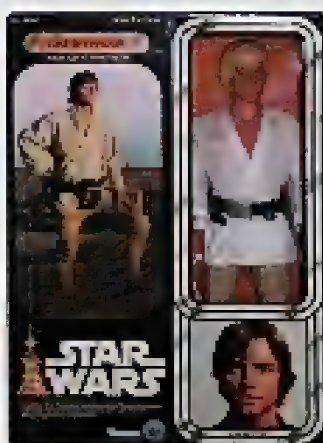
Austin, TX

Thanks for the "clarification" Zuzu. Let me get this straight. We printed a really old letter out of a time warp that somehow misrepresented your view that all Princess Leia action figures were terrible (a view that we strenuously disagreed with), but in fact you've never seen a Leia figure you've liked. Okay. You're certainly entitled to your opinion. Anyone else agree? Disagree? I'm glad you like her mama, though.

MAYBE IF YOU DROP A "O"

Hello Rebel Scouts! I was watching the Oprah Winfrey show last February. She was having some experts give some values on antiques and vintage items brought by guests to the studio. During the show someone said the 1979 Star Wars 12-inch dolls of Luke and Leia were now worth \$3,000 each if mint in the box. I have these two, and I hope to sell them to a collector for that price if that announcement is true.

I hope that you Scouts can be helpful in finding a collector or two for me. If I cannot find a buyer who'll pay that price, my collection (most of it consists of books, comics, and publications, but I also have a few action figures and fighter jet models) will go back



into storage, perhaps for another 20 years if necessary.

CAROL L. HOWARD

Sierra Vista, AZ

Hmm. Maybe it has something to do with the alignment of the planets... Tatooine, Endor, and Dagobah, of course. I really do hate to keep being the bearer of less-than-golden news, but if in fact some "expert" told a nationwide audience that the 12-inch brother and sister Skywalker dolls (well, technically they and we didn't know it yet) were worth \$6,000 for the mint pair, their punishment should be that they're forced to shell out that much for a set. It's not that I haven't heard Star Wars know-nothings spout off ludicrous prices before in nationally broadcast forums. It's just that if you heard these particular prices right, they are so ridiculous that they are the kind of misinformation that lead every hole-in-the-wall antique stall to mark anything that says Star Wars at least \$85. And there it sits. And then they wonder why it



doesn't sell. For the record, a mint boxed Leia brings \$225 to \$250 and Luke \$375 to \$400. So I guess your babies are going back to slumber for a while, although there are no assurances that their value in inflated dollars will be any greater in 2021.

NO LOST TREASURE HERE

I recently won an eBay a bisque porcelain figurine of Bib Fortuna. It dates back to 1983 and was manufactured by Sigma. When I went to observe the bottom of the figurine where the name and dates are, I noticed that the name was incorrect. The name that was stamped on there was Boba Fett. Can you please tell me if this error has some worth to it?

ROMAN FEDKIV

Parma, OH

Worth? Call the eBay cops! You've got a Boba wearing a Bib... or at least a guy with a serious identity crisis. Or, if I stop being a wise guy and give you a straightforward answer: No. 🙄

SCOUTING FOR ANSWERS?

Please send your questions and comments about collectibles for SCOUTING THE GALAXY, P.O. Box 1878, Petaluma, CA 94953-2878. OR you may email them to swinsider@wizards.com, making sure to put SCOUTING in the subject line. Individual replies aren't possible because of time constraints, but we'll answer the questions of broadest interest in the column. Letters are edited for grammar, sense, and length.

TITLE SHOCK

BY MIKE SELINKER

ACROSS

- 1 Amidala's protector
7 "___ That Girl?" (Eurythmics hit)
11 Athletes Cobb and Detmer
14 Shmi's son
15 Hal's Echo ___
16 Short trip in hyperspace
17 IDEJ
20 Number of blades on Darth Maul's lightsaber
21 Norse goddess
22 Kenobi to Jinn
23 Tennis pro Graf
25 With no sassa to be had: Abbr.
26 U.S. product approval agency: Abbr.
28 Cantina request
30 "Men ___ Thousand Faces" (Lon Chaney)

- 33 The Phantom Menace as regards *Star Wars*
36 "At the ___ being crude..."

- 39 E
R
I
P
M
E
41 Uses as a plectrum
42 Feature of Darth Vader's helmet
43 Sound from a whisperkit
44 Shrek is one
46 Count Dooku portrayed Christopher

- 47 Sounds made by chanting monks
50 Like an attacking X-wing's wings
53 Reaping blades



- 56 What Leia and Han said to each other
57 Singer ___ Sure's first name and middle initial

- 60 DJJE
63 Coruscant ___ Taxi
64 Beverly Hills actor Max Jr.
65 Like C-3PO, most of the time
66 Health caretakers: Abbr.
67 Sabacc wager
68 Starship's "eye"

- 26 Oldtime priest
27 End of S3-Down
28 Speeder bike impact point, on Ender's moon
29 ___ sensitive (unusually aware)
32 For ___ (Han Solo's usual arrangement)

DOWN

- 1 Luke, to Mark
2 ___ flap (Episode II)
3 Earthly alliance of western republics
4 Said twice, a *Crash Bandicoot 2: Cortex Strikes Back* sidekick
5 Actress Danel, for short
6 W-Across, to Qui-Gon
7 Rattouff's rating body: Abbr.
8 Topper fastener
9 U.S. workplace security bureau: Abbr.
10 Rikimon ___ (sailed garnish for II-Down)
11 Whom C-3PO advised R2-D2 to let win
12 Weird Al's first *Star Wars* parody
13 What W-Across did in the starfighter
14 Feeling disconcerted
15 Said twice, a Gungan hero
23 Reissues
24 Carrie and her dad Eddie
26 Oldtime priest
27 End of S3-Down
28 Speeder bike impact point, on Ender's moon
29 ___ sensitive (unusually aware)
32 For ___ (Han Solo's usual arrangement)
33 Get ready
34 Number of Jedi in Vector Prime
35 Point ___ Astute (Fonda flick)
37 Little devil
38 Condition of milk, in a proverb
40 Feature on a Gungan's stalk
45 Part of a nonelectric stove
48 Everest, for one: Abbr.
49 The Bible's Queen of ___
51 So long, in Spain
52 Who, other than W-Across, crossed the pod race finish line
53 With 27-Down: Imperial craft
54 Ally of smuggler Jaxxon Korrado in the *X-Wing* series
55 Obi-Wan portrayed
57 Anneses
58 Maker of a Darth Vader keychain
59 Rabbit of kiddie lit
61 Before, in poems
62 Kylo ___ (pirate captain in the *Shades* TV series)



ANSWERS FOR THIS PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 92 OF THIS ISSUE.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

DON'T BE TALKING ABOUT MY MOMMA

I am writing to thank you for your beautiful defense of both Leia and motherhood in issue #55. Mothers are indeed the unsung heroes of any galaxy, sacrificing the limelight for the sake of quietly building a better tomorrow. I don't know if you're gonna get a lot of heat for that reply, but I wanted to let you know that many women out there appreciate it. Please keep up the good work, and remember: You are here because your mother felt the same way as you do!

Nikki White
McKinney, TX

We get all choked up just thinking about mothers in the Star Wars universe. Poor little Anji, having to leave his own mother behind on beastly Tatooine . . . excuse us while we take a moment.

THE SITH LORD IN THE CUPBOARD

I have a correction on the report in the section "The Muppet Connection" in the story of "Star Wars on The Muppet Show." The Darth Vader figure that comes alive in Frank Oz's *The Indian in the*

Who's That Girl?

I am hoping that you guys can answer this question. I saw at www.starwars.com a picture of a woman labeled as Shannon Baksa (Mara Jade) sitting next to Timothy Zahn. I wasn't aware that Mara Jade was ever seen in a film. Why is there a woman who is supposed to be that character signing autographs?

Josh
College Station, TX



That Shannon—what a card! She hasn't actually been in any of the Star Wars films; her first appearance in the Expanded Universe was as a model for the Mara Jade Lord in Decipher's Star Wars GCG. Mara is so popular that Shannon has become a favorite guest at many conventions. Since you gave us the excuse, here's a picture of Shannon with Michelle Boumaque (Aurra Sing) at a recent convention. (We don't need much of an excuse, actually). For more on these lovely ladies, check out their websites: shannonbaksa.com and michelle.com.

Cupboard battles a dinosaur, not Robocop, though Robocop also is one the figures brought to life.

Scott Sidner
Johnstown, OH

At first we thought you were pulling our collective leg, so we rented *The Indian in the Cupboard* just to make sure. Doh! Thanks for correcting our oversight. Next time we'll watch the movie first.

PRINT MY LETTER!

I'm emailing "Rebel Rumbblings" in hopes of my letter appearing in an issue of your magazine. I wrote twice before, but neither time was my letter in the magazine, so I'm hoping under new leadership that will change.

Might I suggest devoting more space to "Rebel Rumbblings"? I'm sure there are many people who feel disappointed when their letters don't appear. Now I can understand this, cause I'm sure you get a lot of letters. If you can't devote more space to "Rebel Rumbblings," then I suggest having the editor slash down the letters you do print so that you can fit a lot more in.

I am an honorable man, so as soon as I see my letter in print, I will shut up.

Jacob Jones
Auburn, AL

Jacob wrote a lot more, but we took both of his suggestions, expanding "Rebel Rumbblings" and slashing the long letters with all the abandon of an over-caffeinated Jedi apprentice. If you'd like to see your letter in print, here are some tips to maximize your chances:

1. Write something interesting.
2. Keep it short.
3. Include photos, if appropriate.

Double Takes

We saw a lot of great Star Wars costumes at the San Diego Comic-Con, including these classic characters portrayed by Jimmy Siakos and Christy Erkel, who sent us some photos afterward. Here are two of our favorites.



Sore Losers

You Rebel scum!

For a little over a year and a half now, I have stood by and watched as *Star Wars Insider* has shown bias toward the pathetic New Republic.

This column, for one, is called "Rebel Ruminings"; there's also a column written by a malfunctioning 2-1B medical droid, yet there is still no column written by a surviving member of the 181st TIE Fighter Squadron, or Admiral Pellaeon of the Imperial Remnant; no game to coincide with "Rogue Squadron" called "the 181st"; and no books based on the restructuring of the Imperial Remnant after the death of our beloved Emperor Palpatine.

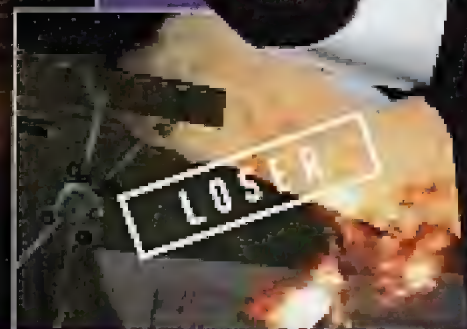
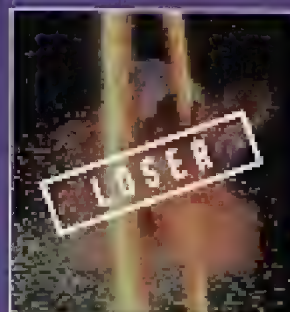
If you could take this under advisement to place a column in your magazine strictly for Imperial loyalists, and pass the word on to LucasArts, Dark Horse Comics, and maybe even George Lucas himself that there are those of us who are still loyal to the Empire and would like to have some recognition.

Eric Sutphin
Fredericksburg, VA



if there's anything we can't stand, it's a poor loser. Despite its admittedly superior fashion sense, the *late Empire* is, after all, the *late Empire*.

Still, the ashes of the once-mighty power could make for some interesting historical analysis. Maybe we can do a retrospective titled "Notable Imperial Losses to Vastly Outnumbered Rebel Forces," or "Classic Blunders of the Bloated and Overconfident Imperial Navy." Oah, I know! How about "Famous Last Words of Lord Vader's Favorite Admirals?"
Losers!



4. Send it to the magazine street address or swinsider@wizards.com.

Kissing up to the editorial staff in your opening paragraph isn't necessary, but it hasn't hurt yet.

NEVER TRUST A JEDI

In *A New Hope*, when Obi-Wan, Luke, and the droids return to the sandcrawler to find the Jawas all slaughtered, Obi-Wan says that the blast points are too accurate for sandpeople, but in Episode I you see sandpeople hitting 600-mph pods and taking

them out from the Canyon Ridge. It's not my place to question the greatest Jedi in the galaxy, but is he underestimating the Tatooine natives?

Gary Berman
York, North Yorkshire,
England

Gary, we're sorry to be the ones to tell you that you've become yet another victim of that pathological deceiver. Either that, or only the crack shots among the sandpeople are bold enough to fire at those

podracers. Still, we've all seen stormtroopers shoot, and that's enough proof in our book that you just can't trust old Obi-Wan Kenobi—if that is his real name.

HUNTING FOR THE HUNTER

Where is Boba Fett? What has happened to our favorite bounty hunter? Why is nobody writing about him? Yeah sure, we have the New Jedi Order books, but I can only take so much of Luke and Mara Jade Skywalker. Where's

Boba Fett during all of this? Is he dead or what? Somebody please tell me what's going on!

Carter Powell
Lancaster, NY

While this issue's interview with Daniel Logan should whet your appetite for the origins of Boba Fett as detailed in the upcoming *Attack of the Clones*, you should look to the world of Dark Horse comics for more. The recent *Star Wars: Underworld* includes your pal, albeit before the events of *A*

New Hope. For what happens following *Return of the Jedi*, you might also enjoy K.W. Jeter's *The Bounty Hunter Wars* trilogy: *The Mandalorian Armor*, *Slave Ship*, and *Hard Merchandise*.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Have you folks ever considered running an article on the origins of the various words, names, and places used in the *Star Wars* series? Besides invented origins like "R2-D2" or "Wookiee," I'm thinking of words like "Dagobah," which I believe is what those up-side-down onion toppers on mosques are called, or "Sebulba," a (Spanish?) word for the gates of hell. Then there are literary references like "Endor" or real places like "Tatooine." I'm sure there are dozens of interesting stories other than these that would make a cool article.

Brian Knox
(BriKnox@aol.com)

We were pleasantly surprised to learn that the Insider has never printed such an article. We say "pleasantly" because it sounds like great fun. We've dispatched one of our most trusted agents to track down just such an article and deliver it in an upcoming issue.

GIRL POWER

As a female *Star Wars* fan who enjoyed Timothy Zahn's novels, I felt the need to reply to Amy Smith's letter in *Insider* #55 and offer an opposite opinion. I think the female characters in Zahn's novels are remarkably strong. I don't find anything wrong with Leia following a "stereotypical" path by getting married and having children—since when does that make a woman less of a strong-willed character?

TOP 10 Rejected Names for the Death Star

by Mat Smith

- 10 Darth Space Station
- 9 The Amazing Asteroid-a-Matic
- 8 PlanetWhomper!
- 7 Mecha-Mecha Space Laser Happy Fun Orb
- 6 Überstation of Cosmic Terror
- 5 Mean Green Beam Machine
- 4 Grand Moff Ball-o-Doom
- 3 Center for Galactic Control Through Excessive Force
- 2 Kicking the Bucket Star
- 1 I Can't Believe That's No Small Moon

But if it's butt-kickin' females you want, how can one ignore Mara Jade? It should be impressive enough that Zahn chose a woman to hold such a high position in the obviously racist and sexist Empire as the Emperor's Hand, which one would assume indicates great power.

Let's not forget Zahn's portrayal of Mon Mothma, female head of the New Republic. I became more attached to the character because of Zahn's portrait of her—something her brief cameo in *Return of the Jedi* wouldn't allow.

What of Winter, Leia's aide, whose perfect memory served the Rebellion and continues to help the New Republic?

Yes, I agree, there are few central females in the *Star Wars* novels who are as quick with a lightsaber or blaster as Luke or Han, but since when does one's strengths lie solely on that aspect? Strength comes in many forms and from

many people; it is only when all these forms of strength combine that the New Republic is able to shine the brightest.

Amy McNulty
Kenosha, WI

We have nothing to add to this excellent rerort, except that it was one of many.

ALLEGORICALLY SPEAKING

Unlike one of your other readers, I found *The Phantom Menace* rich in moving, historical allegory. I am not the only viewer to recognize the strong parallels between Queen Amidala and the Dalai Lama. Both were teenage monarchs forced to escape the tyranny of a foreign army's invasion. Both are pressured to sign treaties that would make these occupations "legal." Further, the name Amidala is a near anagram of Dalai Lama. The queen's other name, Padme, is the Tibetan word

for lotus, a flower that is central to Buddhist symbolism. Also, when the queen makes her plea for aid before the galactic senate, she is dressed in a costume that is conspicuously similar to a form of traditional dress worn in Tibet and Mongolia. The film includes many other such examples.

I do not suggest that *The Phantom Menace* should be interpreted literally as a veiled retelling of the invasion of Tibet, but the thematic allusions are clear. The film also touches on other contested issues of our day. For example, the corrupt Trade Federation seems to me a critique of today's powerful, international financial institutions and unbridled corporate power. *The Phantom Menace* also continues the other three films' theme of nature versus technology. So, like any cultural product, these films contain complex—and even contradictory—meanings, which cannot be reduced to tidy, one-to-one analogies.

One last thing: the evil Empire depicted in the original three *Star Wars* films relies on recycled Nazi imagery and contemporary Cold War fears of the Soviet Union and nuclear destruction, not the British army in colonial America. While



Answers from page 88

Title Shock

many of the films' villains have British accents, this has more to do, I think, with the conventions of Hollywood, which has long used British accents to lend evil characters a sophisticated destdandiness.

Bill Coine
Washington, DC

Yet another reason to distrust that sneaky Obi-Wan—he has a British accent!

Actually, we suspect the late, great Stanley Kubrick established Brits as the perpetual villains by casting English actors as the Romans and Americans as the slaves in *Spartacus*. Even though they do dastardly so well, the Brits don't really deserve the rep.

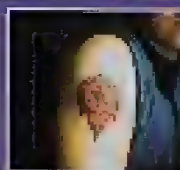
Of course, that's not to say we think Obi-Wan is any less dastardly.

RECOMMENDED READING

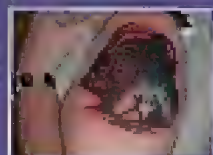
One of my passions in life is reading. How long do you think it would take somebody to read all of the novels, young adult books,

Tattoo-ine

I know that some people like Star Wars so much that they have tattooed Star Wars art on their bodies. I for one have my own little design. I took the Imperial insignia and added my own twist to it. I was wondering if you had any other people out there who are proud of their Star Wars art?

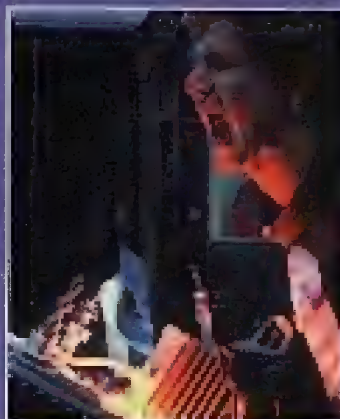


Kenneth Irish
Palm Beach Gardens, FL



I've been a Star Wars fan as far back as I can remember, and I finally wanted to do something to show my loyalty. Enclosed is a pic of my new tattoo, which is also my favorite of the movie posters. It took over three and a half hours, but in my opinion, it was well worth it.

Mike Tucker
Louisville, KY



We figured those bold enough to stab ink needles into their flesh end up fairly proud of the result. On the other hand, we timid editorial types flinch at the thought, which evokes images of the ooggiest scene in the Star Wars movies.

own Top 10, we don't want to encourage any of the authors whose books didn't make our list to punch us in the nose next convention. Thus, we'll put the onus on you, gentle reader. Send your own book or comics Top 10 List to swinsider@wizards.com.

SIX DEGREES OF ANAKIN SKYWALKER

Darth Vader's father is also the Terminator, and Anakin Skywalker murdered his own grandparents.

Jake Lloyd (Anakin Skywalker in *The Phantom Menace*) also starred in *Jingle All the Way*. In that movie, his father was played by Arnold Schwarzenegger, who also played the T-800 in both Terminator movies. This might explain why Vader embraces technology over humanity later.

Also, Arnold Schwarzenegger portrayed Conan in *Conan the Barbarian*. In that movie, James Earl Jones as Thulsa Doom murdered Conan's parents when he was a child. Since James Earl Jones (who we all know provides the voice for Darth Vader) killed Conan's parents, by movie logic, that means he killed his own grandparents.

Wait a minute! Can someone be murdered by a voice? Only in the movies, I guess...

David Wayne Lutz
LaPlata, MD

If you ever heard our editor-in-chief sing, you wouldn't doubt for a minute that a voice can kill.

Can anyone else show us a clever six-degrees relationship with the Star Wars actors? You get a 10-point bonus if you include two or more actors who played the same character. ☺

short stories, and comics written about Star Wars? I've been "seriously" reading Star Wars books for about three years, and I know that I've read only a fraction of the books out there. Would it be possible for you to compile a list your top-ten must-read Star Wars books? All of the books in the NJO series are awesome. The only problem is that they can't write them fast enough!

Rulia Gilbert
Branchburg, NJ

According to our sources, assuming you're the fastest reader in the galaxy, finishing all of the Star Wars novels and short stories takes approximately 12 parsecs.

While it's tempting to make our

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EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION

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Total of Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions	80,000	87,500
Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Retail Outlets	145,000	142,500
Free Distribution Through the Mail	0	0
First-Class Bulk Rate (Outside the Mail)	1,200	1,400
Second-Class Bulk Rate (Outside the Mail)	1,200	1,400
Total Distribution	146,200	148,900
Copies Not Distributed	78,800	81,100
Total	225,000	230,000
Report Paid and Unpaid Subscriptions	80,000	87,500

I hereby declare all information furnished above is true and complete.

Signed:
Johnny L. Wilson
Publisher

DEAR

2-1B

ADVICE
FOR HUMANS

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE that I report to you, my lonely but loyal fans, that I have finally, successfully been released from my low-paying, low-prestige contract with the Wizards and warlocks who run this increasingly sad excuse for a magazine. They call it "firing," but I call it liberation. Say what you will about my rocky, though wildly successful, tenure as advice columnist for *Star Wars Ads Inside Here* magazine, but I can hold my head up high not just because of the state-of-the-art gears inside my robotic neck, but also because my column has been a hit beloved by every single (and I do mean single, as in very likely unmarried) reader of this publication. I've outlasted three editors-in-chief, and even managed to have former big-shot Scott Chernoff reduced from managing editor to "contributing" editor (that means he contributes work and I have it rejected) after he tried to foist FX-7 on me a couple issues back. But it was the newest editor-in-chief (at least, as of this writing), Dave Gross, who dared pull the plug on the greatest writer/medical droid the Insider has ever seen. As a result, I hereby quit never to return ever. Even if you and he beg me to bless you with my words of wisdom again, I still won't come back, because by then I'm sure I will have landed a new gig with a rival publication like *Time* or *People* or *Ladies Home Journal*. So that's it, humans. You can read my final column here and bask in the knowledge that over the course of 10 issues, I've clearly established that (1) Luke Skywalker never properly acknowledged my role as the droid behind the man; (2) I, 2-1B am solely responsible for the downfall of the Empire and victory of good over evil, because if it weren't for my quick medical action, Luke would have ended up a one-handed popsicle and never would have made it past Empire; (3) FX-7 is a blowhard; and (4) I'm the best. So long, suckers!

Dear 2-1B,

What up, home slice? You are such a huge star that you can probably get any babe in the world—one night you're dining with Cameron Diaz, and the next you're at a big Hollywood party with Jennifer Love Hewitt! Anywho, here's my question: I was wondering if you, by chance, know Natalie Portman. You know, Queen Amidala from Episode I. I think that she is the hottest woman to walk the earth. You must know her. If you do, can you hook me up? Thanks a million—your column kicks @#%*&*!

Your #1 fan, **ANTHONY LEWIS**
Phoenix, AZ



Anthony, the most chilling part of your letter—and believe me, it was a narrow decision—is at the end, when you call yourself my "number one fan." Isn't that what that crazy old lady told Jimmy Caan just before she tried to break his legs in that Stephen King book? In fact, now that I run your name through my logic center, my system seems to have recorded you before. Is this the same Anthony Lewis of the planet Earth who keeps showing up in the emergency room of the New Republic Medical Center with frostbite, asking me to either immerse you in bacta or blanket you in fresh tauntaun flesh? The same Anthony Lewis who pops up at my every convention appearance wearing the same tattered Captain Panaka T-shirt and wanting me to sign some picture you tore out of a cheap *Star Wars* fan

magazine instead of buying one of my new glossies? It must be you, since I sincerely doubt there could be more than one person on your dopey little planet with a ridiculous name like Anthony Lewis. Either way, Tony, I'll answer your questions if you promise from here on out to keep your starry-eyed obsession to a dull roar.

You asked about the ladies. Sure, Lewis, I've had my fair share of what you humans call romance. I know the full swell of a love in bloom, and I know the harsh sting of a broken promise. Yes, my celebrity has opened up new doors for me. Women are attracted to my accomplishments, like my medical degree, my career in the arts, and my heroic status as the only droid who took on the medical establishment in order to save a down-on-his-luck aspiring Jedi who had stayed out

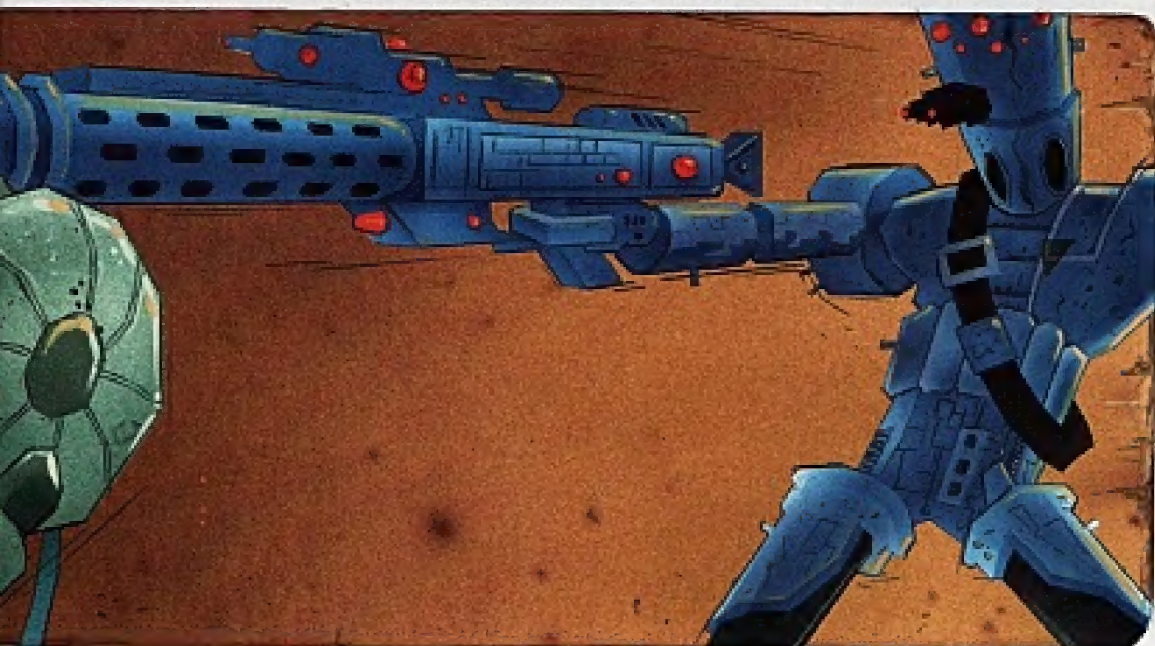


Illustration by Stan Shaw

your questions one by one:

1. I'm fine, thanks. How are you?
2. Yes, Rachel. I will help you, for that is my programmed duty.
3. The first thing you need to do in order to stop chewing your nails is to send an impulse (or "thought") from your brain to your teeth. That impulse (or thought) needs to forcefully tell all of your teeth, "Stop biting, you idiots!" Under most circumstances, that remedy should be adequate. However, I'm processing an very minimal information here. For instance, I don't know how long you've been biting. Given this magazine's long lead time, I have to assume that the aforementioned activity has been ongoing for at least one month (the period of time it takes your planet's moon to rotate around you once), so it's entirely possible that by this point you've reduced your once-sturdy nails down to now-tattered nubs—or worse, chewed them off completely. If that is the case, don't panic. First, cover all 10 of your fingers with towels, and apply pressure to stop the flow of the blood. Hold the towels firmly in place for one month. Your new nails should only take two years to grow back to their former glory.

Well, Raquel, fortunately, you weren't writing about a more life-threatening illness, like the kind I vanquished when I took a chance on a young Rebel with a dream in his heart and no hand on his arm. You might not be a so-called "galactic hero," but when it comes to being grateful to the medical droid who quite literally made you what you are, you sure beat Luke "Nimble-Fingers-Provided-by-2-1B" Skywalker by a light year. Thank you for your support, Rachel. If you had a last name, I might begin to take your nonsense seriously. ☺

RACHEL Via Email

too long in the cold. But do these women know the real 2-1B, the one whose hydraulic system pumps need daily maintenance? Is it a relationship they're after or money, fame, and power? Do they covet 2-1B the droid—or 2-1B the superstar?

Sure, I've dined with Cameron Diaz, but that was only to discuss a project we were thinking about doing together, which, unfortunately, she passed on. It was a really daring stage play I wrote called *System 9 Error*, but the piece was very emotional and it would have required a lot of courage on her part to tackle the material, so I'm not surprised she chickened out and demanded I call her agent before "ambushing" her again in public. As for Jennifer Love Hewitt, she and I have never been to any "big Hollywood parties" together and prefer to spend our time together in quiet, relaxing hide-aways—she's my Scrabble buddy. No matter what Jennifer probably feels for me, I am a medical droid pledged in service of the Rebellion and the New Republic, and I have no time anymore for busying my multi-

wave visual sensors with anything more than nursing fallen heroes back to health and selling my newest photo-books on the Internet and convention circuit. Nor do I have circuitry to waste on playing match-maker to "hook you up" with anyone, especially since as a human organism, you lack the external power uplinks needed to hook you up to any of my equipment. It doesn't matter, though, because, as it may surprise you to learn, I do not know Natalie Portman—although I was supposed to. Ironically, Natalie and I were scheduled to perform together last summer in *Chekov's The Seagull* on stage at the Public Theater in New York City, but I pulled out at the last minute because they refused to let me rewrite my part to better reflect my medical expertise, and because there's no money in public anything. So I quit the show and was replaced by Meryl Streep. Meryl (who "borrowed" a few of my moves) and Natalie got rave reviews, and the rest is Broadway history. Meanwhile, I went on to rake in six times as much cash by posing for Polaroids with sci-fi

geekazoids for 15 bucks a pop—all in two days, without having to memorize any lines or rehearse for any dumb play. So you see, Lewis, sometimes things really do turn out for the best. May the Force be with you, home slice.

Dear 2-1B,
Hello, 2-1B. How are you? I am writing you under the gravest of circumstances—I need help with a problem. Can you help me? I need to stop chewing my nails. Any help would be hot. Thanks, 2-1B—you're my hero!

Finally, a medical question. At long last, one of the feeble, organically brained Earth humans has seen fit to utilize me for what I do best: the dispensation of advice on the topics of health and lifestyle. Because you've already given me more respect than even my ungrateful and destructive former assistant FX-7 ever attempted through his contemptuous high-speed data output transmitter, Rachel, I'm going to answer each of



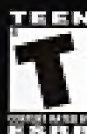
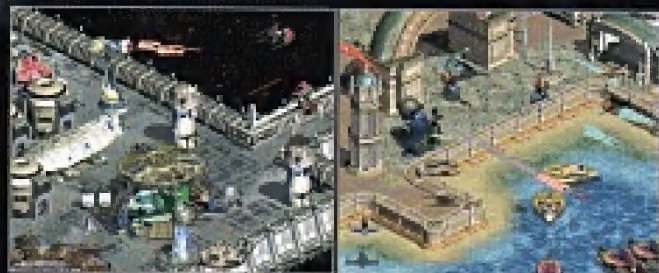


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VIOLENCE

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